

AND

Scene magazine



Page 6



Back page

Tracy McGrady (1), Yao Ming and Jon Barry (20)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2005

平成22年4月9日 第三種郵便物認可（日本郵政公社）
06-72 株式会社アール・エス・ピーエル 〒106-8555 東京都港区赤坂1-7-12 3F

\$1.00

120 troops from 374th still deployed in tsunami-relief effort Page 6

Page 6

Pages 3-5

JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown NewspaperCOMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Sake's popular,
for Pete's sake

Scene on Sunday

Psychoanalyzing
celebritiesDon't miss a
single issue.For home delivery, call DSN
225-4505 (Japan)
721-7140 (Korea)
645-2010 (Okinawa)

TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	22
American Roundup.....	24-25
Classified.....	33-35
Comics.....	Stripes Comics
Parade.....	36
Faces.....	37
Advice.....	22
Letters.....	26
Opinion.....	27
Religion.....	20-21
Sports.....	38-48
TV/radio listings.....	28-29
Weather.....	32
Your Money.....	30-31

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Business

Sears-Kmart deal: The waiting period required under antitrust law has expired for discount retailer Kmart Holding Corp.'s planned \$11 billion acquisition of the Sears, Roebuck and Co. department store chain, the companies said Friday.

The waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act expired at the end of the day Thursday, the companies said. It is required to allow the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice time to examine any anti-competitive implications of mergers and acquisitions.

Riggs Bank scandal: Riggs Bank has pleaded guilty to failing to report suspicious transactions in the accounts of foreigners, including former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, and agreed to pay a \$16 million fine.

In its aggressive courtship of foreign political figures to win their banking business, the old-line Washington, D.C., bank failed to exercise oversight and aided their illegitimate use of the bank, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

It would be the largest criminal penalty ever imposed on a bank of Riggs' size, according to prosecutors, and comes at a record \$25 million civil fine levied on the bank by a Treasury Department agency last May.

HealthSouth fraud case: An accountant who pored over HealthSouth's books for the government in its case against fired CEO Richard Scrushy testified that earnings were inflated by \$2.7 billion from 1996 through 2002.

The false financial statements were not the result of aggressive accounting practices, as the defense might suggest, said forensic accountant Harvey Kelly.

"It was just flat-out making up numbers," he said.

States

Forgotten-diver suit: A diver who drifted for five hours after a boat crew left him at sea has sued the diving company for \$4 million.

Daniel Carlock Jr. filed a lawsuit Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court against Ocean Adventures Dive Co. and its employees, accusing them of negligence, inflicting emotional distress and fraud.

Carlock, 46, alleges Ocean Adventures left him off Santa Catalina Island on April 25, 2004, then lied about his location, delaying his rescue for five hours. He was eventually rescued by Boy Scouts in the area.



Annual Boy Scout derby: Boy Scouts from Japan's Pack 22 at the Atsugi Naval Air Facility watch intensely as three Pinewood Derby cars race to the finish on the wooden track. The annual race was held Thursday at Atsugi's Boy Scout Hut. Each racer was tasked with designing and building his own car from a Pinewood Derby kit. The overall winner of the event, for the second year in a row, was 11-year-old Jacob Devine.

World

Casablanca terror attack: Italy's top criminal court has blocked the extradition to Morocco of a terror suspect alleged to have been involved in the 2003 Casablanca suicide bombing, news reports said Thursday.

Mohammed Rafik, a Moroccan who has lived in Italy since 1998, was arrested in October 2003 with two other Moroccan men. They were all alleged to have ties to the Muslim extremist movement Salafita Jihadia, which Moroccan officials have blamed for the Casablanca attack.

Rafik has denied the charges.

Terror arrests in Pakistan: Police arrested 23 Afghans in raids in the Pakistani border city of Quetta on suspicion of links with Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, officials said Friday.

The suspects, who included a former deputy governor and ex-police chief in Kabul, were captured from three neighborhoods of the city late Thursday and were being interrogated, said Chaudhry Mohammed Yaqub, the police chief in southwestern Baluchistan province, of which Quetta is the capital.

He said the detainees had held "important positions during Taliban's tenure" in Afghanistan, and "we suspect that some of them have close links with al-Qaida."

Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Israel's army

chief ordered troops to halt operations in the Gaza Strip on Friday and to scale back raids in the West Bank, as hundreds of Palestinian police deployed in the volatile central and southern parts of the territory.

The army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said Israeli troops could go on after militants with his approval. The order would significantly limit Israeli military action against extremist groups — but was still short of a public declaration of a cease-fire sought by Palestinians to seal a truce with militants.

Military

Pacific Command changes: President Bush has nominated Navy Adm. William J. Fallon to succeed Adm. Thomas Fargo as commander of the Hawaii-based U.S. Pacific Command, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said.

Fallon currently is commander of the U.S. Atlantic fleet and the Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia.

In August, the White House chose Air Force Gen. Gregory S. Martin to succeed Fargo, who was to retire this month. But two months later, Martin asked that his nomination be withdrawn after pointed questioning during a Senate confirmation hearing.

Fallon, 60, is a former vice chief of naval operations, the No. 2 navy job at the Pentagon.

Stories from The Associated Press

Bld. 327 Yujo Community Center Yokota A.B. Japan

Suzuki's Café

COFFEE
ESPRESSO
TEA
SODAS & JUICES
WINE & BEER

SUZUKI'S
1985
YOKOTA

SALADS
PASTA
SANDWICHES
SOUP
PASTRY

For more information call : 225-9888
www.suzuki-s.com

小・番
Sho-Ichiban
Oriental Restaurant

Bld. 4330 East Side Yokota A.B. Japan

Free Soda
at Suzuki's Café & Sho-Ichiban

with any order of \$5.00 or more.

*1 free soda, per person, per coupon, per visit with qualified purchase.

Only dinner time from 5-9.

so hurry!

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL
expires 2/5/05



PHOTOS BY T.D. FLACK/Stars and Stripes

Left: High-rise towers at Yokota Air Base, Japan, have fire-safety features typical — but not universal — among U.S. bases across the Pacific. Alarm and sprinkler systems vary, as do firefighting practices. Serious fires are relatively rare, as are fire-caused injuries.

Above: As with alarms in many high-rises in the States, the alarms in Yokota's high-rise housing towers initially will sound only on the floor where activated, the floor above and the floor below. The system can leave upper-floor residents of the nine-story towers unaware of alarms sounded for fires on lower floors. But base firefighting officials say almost all fires are extinguished before they spread significantly and that evacuating an entire building increases the risk of individual injuries among residents trying to escape.

Some question high-rise fire alarm system

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

Two tower apartment fires last year at Yokota Air Base, Japan, left many residents troubled to learn that fire-evacuation alarm systems in their high-rise housing are designed to alert only three floors — the fire floor, the level below and the one above.

A Pacificwide query of U.S. military installations showed procedures and equipment meant to protect tower residents vary widely among the bases, and, sometimes, from building to building on a single base.

The region features more than 100 high-rise family housing units. Some have sprinklers, while others don't. Alarms run the gamut from state-of-the-art to systems that housing officials admit fail to meet current standards. Bringing the outdated versions up to code, officials say, must wait until budgets allow overall renovation of the housing units.

But military officials defend the alarm arrangements, pointing to impeccable safety records, sturdy firewalls and doors, and the compartmentalization approach to each apartment unit — standards that mirror those set forth by the U.S. National Fire Protection Association.

Host-nation governments are primarily responsible for the design and maintenance of base housing towers. Building codes continually evolve, so alarm systems differ based on established guidelines used at the time of construction.

"The codes constantly change," said Mark S. Lawler, fire chief for the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron at Yokota Air

Many Pacific bases take three-floor approach to prevent stampedes, injuries, officials say

Base. "All my buildings have different alarm systems and infrastructure. During major renovations, we do work to catch them up to code by upgrading alarms and installing fire sprinklers."

Lawler said the buildings are required by law to comply with the government of Japan's fire codes, but base officials work with Japan to incorporate U.S. safety codes in the construction.

Firefighter discretion at the scene offers the most practical assessment of what alarms to sound, officials say, typically preventing unnecessary and unwanted disturbances for those seemingly out of danger's path. Still, some wonder why the buildings aren't equipped to warn every resident in the face of a fire.

It certainly spawns a few questions: Just how safe are apartment tower residents? And is the absence of a universal alarm system a recipe for disaster? Senior Airman Clifton Kennedy, who moved to Yokota last July with his wife, said they've twice come down the fire escape from their eighth-floor apartment in Building 3000 for false alarms.

"The alarm was going off on the seventh and eighth floors. The other alarm weren't sounding," he said. "We had to leave, but everyone else was still in the building."

"I feel if it's a fire, everybody in the building needs to get out. Fire can spread easily. If the alarm goes off, everybody in the

building should know about it — 'cause fire can spread in seconds."

Senior Airman Matt Ulbarri, who lives on the sixth floor of Building 3000, said he and his wife once used the regular stairwell in the building's interior while evacuating during an early-morning false alarm. He expressed concern about the three-floor alarm system.

"I'd rather it go off in the whole building," Ulbarri said, "but I'm confident we'd be able to get out if there was a fire. I'm not worried about being trapped. We've got a bunch of different options: go out the fire escape or the front door."

So if you happen to reside in a tower apartment's upper half — and a blaze breaks out on the lower levels — would it

have to climb several floors and permeate the building with deadly smoke before others are alerted?

"Absolutely not," Lawler said. "If those conditions were present, the firefighter would sound the building's general alarm. Occupants can evacuate from their units without having to enter the main hallways."

"The construction of the towers allows for a safe haven if fire occurs on a different floor. Additionally, the fire alarm rings automatically on three floors. After fire crews arrive, if the incident command decides to evacuate the entire building, the firefighters can sound the building's general alarm, which will signal on all floors."

It would be difficult for any blaze to penetrate a tower unit, he said, with a two-hour firewall guarding the concrete front door and a three-hour separation per apartment.

SEE ALARM ON PAGE 4

How does your base stack up?

Stars and Stripes

Firefighting, building and fire safety officials were asked what fire-safety provisions are provided for residential housing on their bases. Here's what they reported:

Yokota Air Base

Buildings: 21 tower apartments built between 1974 and 1999. Should be able to withstand fires in adjoining units for three hours. Towers have four dedicated fire escapes reached via master bedroom patios; occupants can escape without entering main hallways.

Alarm systems: All towers' fire alarms sound automatically on three floors: the one with the fire, the one above and the one below. Alarms register automatically at fire stations. Firefighters at the scene deter-

mine whether to sound a general alarm to evacuate entire building. Some older buildings lack sprinklers. Sprinklers in towers are temperature-rated, most for 135 degrees; when the temperature reaches that point, the sprinklers activate.

Firefighting equipment: Yokota fire department has no ladder trucks. Mutual-aid agreement allows use of Tokyo fire department's ladder trucks, which reach approximately 98 feet. Ninth-floor apartments are approximately 101 feet off the ground. In case of "massive" fire, residents to be evacuated using dedicated evacuation stairwells in each wing of each tower.

Safety training for residents: New arrivals briefed on fire emergency services; follow-up mandatory briefing on residential fire safety, conducted in the fire station, covers far more detailed information.

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 4

"If it's a fire, everybody in the building needs to get out. Fire can spread easily. If the alarm goes off, everybody in the building should know about it — 'cause fire can spread in seconds."

Senior Airman Clifton Kennedy

Yokota high-rise resident

Alarm: Some bases opt to evacuate entire high-rise buildings

ALARM FROM PAGE 3

"They're all compartmentalized apartments," Lawler said, "and that's what they're rated. They're wonderful things. Plus, it's rare that you get multiple sprinkler activations. Normally, one will come on and extinguish the fire before it has a chance to spread."

The most incredibly safe features of these towers are the four dedicated fire escapes that are reached by exiting onto the master bedroom patio and entering the fire escape stairway. Even in a worst-case scenario, if a fire gets really out of hand in an apartment that's not sprinklered, the compartmentation would enable us to sound the "all-call" alarm on the first-floor panel and get everyone out of the building using the fire escapes."

The three-floor alarm system is common practice in U.S. sky-scrapers as well, he added. It isolates the smoke or flames while avoiding a panic-induced stampede for the exits.

"It's rare that we'll evacuate a whole building. It's usually much safer to keep people sheltered and in place, particularly if there's no immediate danger," Lawler said. "It's a judgment call. If anyone evacuates a whole tower, you're going to risk more injuries — with all those families trying to make their way out."

Misawa adjusts system

Chief Master Sgt. Dan Vogel, Misawa Air Base's fire chief, said a 2001 modification changed the fire-alarm system from Yokota's model to one that now sounds on every floor.

It used to be "the floor above, the floor below and the affected floor," he said. "That's the requirement. We went above and beyond the requirement."

The three-floor alarm system is an anti-nuisance device; nine floors of families don't have to evacuate every time kitchen smoke trips a smoke detector, Vogel said. "For tower residents, that gets odd, particularly in the colder months."

But at Misawa, "it probably came up as an issue that they would rather put up with the possibility of evacuating versus being in a facility that's on fire and they're not being evacuated," Vogel said of tower residents.

The No. 1 cause of fire at Misawa is unattended cooking, a trend mirrored across the Pacific. Several fires occur annually at Misawa, Vogel said, plus each tower is evacuated at least once yearly "for nuisance alarms — some of them fire, six, seven times a year."

But Senior Airman Niko Punsalang, a tower resident, said he'd rather evacuate for a false alarm than risk not knowing about a real fire as near as two floors away. If alarms didn't sound throughout the building when a

smoke detector went off, he wonders whether the fire department would have the technology to quickly detect heat or smoke levels. "If the sensors don't have that capability, I'd rather evacuate," he said.

The last major fire in Misawa's base housing took place in July 2001, when a single unit in the 800 area was lost in a fire started by candles.

"Air Force fire-prevention programs and facility construction far exceeds anything you're going to find in municipalities or anything outside the gate," Vogel said. "Nobody is 100 percent safe from fire, but I think we do all that we can to protect our occupants."

Alarm responses vary

In high-rise apartment towers throughout the Commander, Naval Forces Japan region — encompassing Yokosuka, Sasebo, Atsugi and other outlying facilities on the mainland and Okinawa — officials use the three-floor fire-response model, with the ability to activate a building's general alarm if necessary.

"This type of system is not unique to Japan," said Daniel B. Marshall, CNFJ's regional fire chief. "If there was an actual fire and it continued to travel through the upper floors, alarms on those floors would also activate."

Unattended cooking also is the chief culprit for fire emergencies on CNFJ installations. In 1997, the commander's regional fire department officials installed "Range Queen" stove-type fire extinguishers in an effort to boost prevention.

However, a blaze broke out in a Yokosuka high-rise in December 2000 that caused \$310,000 in damages. It was contained to the apartment and no one was injured. Officials blamed carelessly discarded smoking materials.

Pacific military fire-fighting assets

SAFETY FROM PAGE 3

Misawa Air Base

Buildings: 13 high-rise towers, all built since 1988, constructed similarly to those at Yokota, of noncombustible materials such as concrete, steel and gypsum. No hazardous products, such as natural gas utilities, used. Walls and doors rated to withstand a fire for four hours, floors, for two. Every two tower units share "smoke-evacuation stairwells" enclosed with fire-rated walls and separate from central stairway. Towers have built-in sprinkler systems and standpipes for firefighting. Older, 1940s-'800 housing units to be replaced this year with noncombustible, concrete buildings.

Alarm systems: Modified in 2001, all buildings sound on all floors, not just three. If the nine-floor automatic alert system fails, firefighters or residents could use pull stations to activate a fire alarm on each floor. Any tower evacuation alarm also can be triggered from firefighters' communications center. Towers have built-in sprinkler systems.

Firefighting equipment: Ladder truck reaches 102 feet, given new security barriers, it's estimated to reach just the 4th or 5th floors at most towers — but probably would not be used for firefighting or rescue. Fire attack plan is first to advance hose lines inside for quick attack and second, to support sprinkler and standpipe systems with increased pressure.

Safety training for residents: Base firefighters run an aggressive fire-safety education campaign, taking fire engines into housing areas on evenings and weekends, going door-to-door and offering mandatory smoke-detector and fire-extinguisher checks and pass out fire-safety materials.

Commander, Naval Forces Japan

CNFJ facilities include Yokosuka and Sasebo naval bases, Atsugi Naval Air Facility and other outlying facilities on the mainland and Okinawa.

Buildings: 41 high-rise towers throughout the CNFJ region, built between 1972 and 1999; all either have been renovated or are scheduled to be. The concrete structure of each tower has at least two separate fire-rated stairwells. All construction and renovation projects undergo comprehensive reviews toward ensuring all fire and life safety requirements are met.

Alarm systems: CNFJ follows the Yokota model, alerting residents on three floors only; if needed, a building's general alarm is activated by firefighters. Smoke detectors are in bedrooms, hallways and stairwells; heat detectors are in every kitchen. Fire extinguishers are in common areas on all levels for emergency use. All units also have stove-type fire extinguishers and newly installed sprinkler systems. Fire-alarm systems are tested by contractors semiannually.

Since then, CNFJ officials have not encountered a tower fire that's exceeded \$500 in damage. Marshall credits the Range Queen and newly installed sprink-

Firefighting equipment: Yokosuka's ladder truck reaches 105 feet — higher than the base's tallest building, which is 9 stories.

Safety training for residents: Before occupying a tower unit, CNFJ personnel must attend an Area Orientation Briefing, which provides basic fire-safety training. Evacuation drills are held annually, accompanied by additional fire-safety tips.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni

Buildings: Towers and mid-rises dating to 1980.

Alarm systems: Vary according to age and manufacturer. Alarms sound throughout building if someone pulls an alarm or a heat detector is triggered. If a smoke detector or smoke detector is triggered, alarms sound only on that floor and the floors above and below. Some of the system's technology is dated, leading to repeated false alarms.

Firefighting equipment: Ladder truck can reach top floors of the base's tallest housing towers.

Safety training for residents: Briefing on fire safety, escape routes and exits is given upon move-in for residents of towers and barracks.

Camp Zama

Buildings: Two 68-unit towers, built in 1992 and 1999.

Alarm systems: Fire alarm and heat detector triggers alarm in entire building; smoke detector triggers alarm in quarters or local area. Systems are spot-checked periodically. Fire department conducts spot checks a few times yearly to ensure fire exits are clearly marked and accessible and for fire code violations in the buildings. All detectors in towers inspected and tested by independent contractor and fire department within past year.

Firefighting equipment: Information not available at press time.

Safety training for residents: Fire-safety training, fire department conducts periodic unscheduled fire drills.

Guam

Buildings: Guam military bases have no family housing towers; the tallest housing units are two-story family dwellings built in the mid-1990s.

Alarm systems: Smoke detectors are on every floor and outside each bedroom in all Navy family housing units. Sprinkler systems and smoke detectors are in all Harbor View family housing.

Firefighting equipment: Adequate for the type of housing served.

Safety training for residents: Upon command orientation, new tenants are briefed on what to do in the event of a fire.

fire-safety practices are adhered to by the occupants, then the facility is extremely safe."

SEE ALARM ON PAGE 5

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

日本語もあります YBC services are interpreted in Japanese

REACHING THE MILITARY AND JAPAN, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Yokota Christian Academy M-F

Sunday

Early Service 0830

Sunday School 1000

Morning Service 1100

Evening Service 1800

Monday

Faith Bible Institute 1830

Tuesday

Soul Winning & Visitation 1830

Wednesday

Evening Service & Prayer Mtg 1900

Patch & PEE Web Clubs 1900

Friday

Awana Club 1900

Monthly

Mens Prayer Breakfast 1st Sat

Ladies Meeting 1st Sat

CH _ CH

What is missing?

0425-52-7254

www.yokotabaptistchurch.org

At Pussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

16

Pussa Gate Term Gate

Apo's Turkish

GOLD-SILVER machine made CARPET

at MISAWA BX Lobby until Feb 6

turkishgoldcarpet.com

AAFES offering refund for lost AFN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP POSTER, Okinawa — Customers who rent direct-to-home American Forces Network decoder boxes for off-base homes in South Korea, mainland Japan and Okinawa will receive a full month of service free, to be applied to their next bill, an Army and Air Force Exchange Service spokeswoman said Friday.

AAFES announced last week that it would refund 84 cents per day of lost service from an outage earlier this month, but reconsidered after realizing most viewers wouldn't be able to reposition their satellite and change their decoder settings immediately.

Viewers can find instructions on how to make the necessary changes to receive service at www.myaafn.net. Changes in service also can be made by calling the following technical support numbers:

- AFN Korea: DSN 724-3534; Commercial 822-7914-3534
- AFN Okinawa: DSN 645-7636; Commercial 81-611-745-7636
- AFN Tokyo: DSN 225-2370; Commercial 042-552-2511, ext. 52370 or 81-317-552370 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The INTELSAT satellite broadcasting AFN was knocked out Jan. 14 by solar flares, according to an AAFES spokeswoman.

AFN restored its network Thursday, broadcasting on a different satellite.



KAREN J. TOMASIK/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Around 80 servicemembers returned home to Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Friday after completing their role in Operation Unified Assistance.

'We made a difference'

About half those troops from Yokota assigned to U.S. tsunami-relief campaign in South Asia return home

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Roughly half of Yokota's force commitment to Operation Unified Assistance, the U.S. military's tsunami-relief campaign in South Asia, is back home.

Four C-130s assigned to the 374th Airlift Wing — carrying about 80 troops total — returned Friday. A day earlier, another 50 airmen arrived from Utaapoo, Thailand, where they helped form the 374th Air Expeditionary Wing and established a regional distribution hub for humanitarian-assistance missions immediately after the Dec. 26 catastrophe that has claimed more than 140,000 lives across South Asia.

About 120 airmen and four C-130s from Yokota remain in the region. Base officials said it's unclear how long they'll stay.

"Our people did an incredible job," said Col. Mark Schissler, who stepped off one of the C-130s

Friday afternoon after serving as the air expeditionary wing's commander.

"We flew every day we were there. The airplanes, these 40-year-old flying machines, performed magnificently. And the crews figured out how to get in and out of some pretty tough airfields. They did everything safely, and we got things going within the first couple of days."

Flight crews logged 2,500 hours and hauled 4 million pounds of humanitarian aid — mostly food, medical supplies and water — to the affected areas.

The airmen — representing the maintenance, medical, civil engineering and communications fields — were dispatched to various locations during the month-long deployment, including Colombo, Sri Lanka; Banda Aceh, Indonesia; and Phuket, Thailand.

Most appeared groggy Friday after a grueling nine-hour flight from Utaapoo, but satisfied with what they had accomplished.

"We were set up and online in about one-sixteenth the time it normally takes," said Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Van Gordon, who was maintenance chief for the 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron in Utaapoo. "We were set up and flying within 10 hours. This is what we do. It's why we exist, and there was a mission to be done."

"We've exercised with the Thai and Australian militaries before, but never been in a humanitarian-type situation. The relationship we had between ourselves and the Thais, zero glitches. It was smooth."

Schissler, who got panoramic views of the tsunami-ravaged areas from above, said the utter destruction wrought by the walls of water that crashed into coastlines was almost unimaginable. In Banda Aceh, he saw towns where "90 percent of the people had died."

"It really sunk in before I got back," he said. "The devastation was severe, almost too hard to de-



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

About 80 men and women of the 374th Airlift Wing from Yokota Air Base, Japan, returned home Friday to friends and family after a month-long deployment to tsunami-affected regions of South Asia.

scribe. Miles of coastline were destroyed from the sea inland. Up to about three miles, everything that existed was gone. That meant all of the people in that area perished, too.

"The earthquake and tsunami destroyed everything. It was very hard to look at."

U.N. relief agencies are distributing the bulk of humanitarian relief supplies as the U.S. military scales back its operations, Schissler said.

"It will take years for them to recover," he said. "Our part was to cover the emergency. The crisis is abated. We made a difference."

E-mail Vince Little at: little@strips.osd.mil

Yokota ITT TRAVEL SPECIALS

Shinkansen Tours Kyoto INT/2Day Package

By Shinkansen Train
Select dates in Feb only
Limited availability
\$185.00 per person based on double occupancy

Expo 2005 (World's Fair) Aichi, Japan

By Nozomi Shinkansen
Starting Mar 25th thru Sep 25th
Limited availability
\$145.00 per person based on double occupancy

Tour Specials

DisneySea
Feb 6th

Matthew Bourne's
Swan Lake
Feb 26th

Upcoming Tours

On Sale Starting Feb 5th

Kabuki Tour
Feb 19th

Avril Lavigne
Mar 14th

Fertility Festival
Mar 15th

Fares do not include tax and are subject to change without notice. Rates are based on seating availability and are on select dates only.



Yokota ITT
Yujo Recreation Center Yokota AB

227-7083 Fax 227-7089

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

New TRS is less than what is expected

Thirty years ago, Congress decided the nation could no longer afford to offer military volunteers a robust draft-era GI Bill, so it concocted VEAP, the most unpopular veterans' education benefit of the last century.

Last year, Congress decided the nation couldn't afford to open active-duty Tricare benefits to all drilling reservists, so it created Tricare Reserve Select (TRS). Time will tell if TRS is the reserve health care equivalent of VEAP, but advocates for reservists and families fear it might be.

Certainly some reservists among the estimated 20 percent who lacked health care coverage before mobilization will see TRS as a welcome option. Many more eligibles could find it to be too expensive, too restrictive and too complex.

"I don't think many will" sign up, said Joyce Wessel Raezer, director of government relations for the National Military Family Association. "We will all know better once we see the premiums [in late March]. But a lot of people will ask about it. A lot will get bogged down in the process and never make it through. And then some folks will sign up for it under the impression that it's the same as Tricare Prime, and be very unhappy."

When TRS begins April 26, thousands of Reserve and National Guard members previously deactivated from post-9/11 deployments, and thousands more soon to complete deployments, will gain access to a scaled-down version of Tricare Standard, the fee-for-service insurance plan.

To qualify, they must have been mobilized under continen-

cy orders of 30 days or longer and have served at least 90 days' continuous active service. For every 90 days served, they will be eligible for a year of TRS. So a year's continuous deployment could qualify them for four years of TRS coverage, for members and their families.

Coverage comes at a cost, however. Members must make a binding agreement to remain in the Selected Reserve for the duration of TRS coverage. They also will pay monthly premiums, with rates to be announced, that will cover 28 percent of TRS costs. The Congressional Budget Office last year estimated member-only premiums at \$50 a month and family at \$183.

TRS users also will pay the usual Tricare Standard fees, co-payments and annual deductibles. They will not be eligible for Tricare Prime, the military man-

aged-care program, or have access to military treatment facilities or base pharmacies. They will be eligible to get discounted drugs through mail order and Tricare's network of commercial pharmacies.

TRS also won't include many "extras" of Tricare Standard, such as the Program for Persons with Disabilities, which provides financial help for families impacted by mental retardation or a serious physical disability.

Reservists must decide to enroll in TRS before leaving active duty, which likely will mean making quick decisions at de-mobilization sites. If they depart without a "preliminary" TRS agreement, eligibility expires.

Most deployed reservists and families are eligible for Tricare for six months after mobilization. Congress made that temporary postmobilization benefit perma-

nent last year. TRS coverage will start after transition coverage, so on the 181st day after leaving active service.

By then, TRS applicants must have a final TRS agreement with their services, which would involve finding a Selected Reserve unit that needs the reservist for the duration of TRS coverage. If a four-year contract is sought, but the service can guarantee only two years in drill status, the TRS final agreement must be reduced to two years.

Raezer described the sign-up process as "Bzantine."

"It's Do this here — and this here — at this time! All these little steps. And the personnel system has to work with the health care system or the whole thing falls apart."

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111. e-mail: militaryupdate@aol.com or visit: www.militaryupdate.com

Keeping their signals straight



Seaman Taurean J. Edwards hoists a flag on USS Kitty Hawk's signal bridge Thursday during a flaghoist drill with another Navy ship. Signal flags are used as means of communication to personnel on the flight deck, on shore and with nearby vessels.

JASON D. LANDON
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

AAFES gasoline prices decrease across Pacific

Stars and Stripes

Good news for Pacific motorists at Army and Air Force bases: Gasoline prices for most fuel grades will drop for the month of February — but only by a few cents a gallon in most locations.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service announced late Thursday that its mid-grade gas prices in Japan and Okinawa will decrease from \$1.99 to \$1.96 per gallon on Tuesday.

Diesel prices will increase from \$1.90 to \$2.00. AAFES does not sell regular unleaded or premium unleaded fuel in Japan and Okinawa.

In South Korea, unleaded fuel dips from \$1.90 to \$1.85 per gallon, premium unleaded goes from \$2.10 to \$2.05, and diesel fuel goes from \$2.07 a gallon to \$2.

Gum customers, meanwhile, will pay \$1.86 for unleaded fuel, a savings from January of 8 cents per gallon.

The price for premium unleaded will decrease from \$2.14 to \$2.07 per gallon.

AAFES noted in its announcement that February's prices were determined using Department of Energy averages from the weeks beginning Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 10, 17 and 24.

No. 1 TRAVEL'S NATIONAL NETWORK HAS BEEN SERVING THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY FOR OVER 19 YEARS.

No. 1 TRAVEL
We go the extra mile for you

**DO YOU HAVE A MILITARY ID?
THESE PRICES ARE FOR YOU ONLY!!**

FEBRUARY SPECIALS

SEOUL	\$25,800 (\$250)	2/1-2/10	DAILY
HONG KONG	\$31,500 (\$306)	2/19-2/28	SUN-FRI
SHANGHAI/BEIJING	\$29,500 (\$282)	2/4-2/28	
LOS ANGELES	\$38,500 (\$374)	2/4-2/28	
USA SELECTED 1 CITY	\$49,500 (\$480)	2/1-2/28	SUN-THU

MARCH SPECIALS

SEOUL	\$27,800 (\$270)	3/1-2,6,7,8,9	
HONG KONG	\$31,500 (\$306)	3/1-3/17	DAILY
MANILA	\$39,800 (\$386)	3/1-3/31	SUN-FRI
LOS ANGELES	\$42,000 (\$408)	3/1-3/17	DAILY
USA SELECTED 1 CITY	\$49,800 (\$483)	3/1-3/16	MON-FRI

<http://www.no1-travel.com>

Shinjuku Head Office
03-3200-8871
Fax 03-3200-8870
Monday, Friday: 10:00 - 18:30
Sundays & Holidays: Closed

Ikebukuro Branch
03-3986-4291
Fax 03-3986-9989
Monday, Friday: 10:00 - 18:30
Sundays & Holidays: Closed

Shibuya Branch
03-3770-1331
E-mail: no1shib@sales.or.jp
Monday, Friday: 10:00 - 18:30
Sundays & Holidays: Closed

Yokohama Branch
045-322-1701
E-mail: no1yok@sales.or.jp
Monday, Friday: 10:00 - 18:30
Sundays & Holidays: Closed

★★★★★
IMPORTANT

• Prices may vary depending on availability and date.
• Reservation charges (US \$100) shown. Bookings are made at time of booking.
• All rates include hotel and airfare. All rates are subject to change without notice.
• All rates include hotel and airfare. All rates are subject to change without notice.
• All rates include hotel and airfare. All rates are subject to change without notice.

Polling sites taking shape

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO
AND TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

The massive, wide-ranging security effort by U.S. and Iraqi troops for Sunday's historic elections rounded into shape Friday, even as sporadic fighting continued in flashpoint cities throughout the country.

In Ramadi, U.S. forces said they have established 10 polling stations throughout the city — five manned by U.S. Marines and five by Army troops of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. Security inside the polls will be provided by Iraqi troops.

By late Friday, U.S. military officials said insurgents attacked several of the polling stations with weapons ranging from mortars to sniper fire to rocket-propelled grenades. Insurgent snipers wounded one U.S. soldier and an Iraqi Special Police commando Friday at different polling stations, officials said.

Roadside bombs were detonated near several joint patrols in the city, but no casualties were reported.

U.S. and Iraqi soldiers began constructing the actual voting mechanisms Friday, setting up ballot boxes, registration tables and metal detectors to screen voters. Members of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, who will run the vote, were on their way to the polling stations under U.S. guard, officials said.

Soldiers in Ramadi say the biggest threat on election day could come from suicide bombers. Soldiers say they have received intelligence reports indicating as many as two-dozen female suicide bombers from Syria have been deployed in Ramadi, ready to strike election sites.



JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers with Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment go through a box of election materials at a polling station in Ramadi, Iraq, on Friday. Security preparations for Sunday's vote are largely in place, officials said.

Will anyone vote?

In the area near Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, few would be surprised if no one cast a ballot.

On Friday, 40 sheiks gathered here, home to 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, nicknamed "Quarterhorse Cav."

The sheiks visited Forward Operating Base Wilson in nearby Al Dwar to learn the mechanics of the election from an Iraqi voting official.

While the turnout likely will be relatively small and attacks an almost certainty, participation may be surprising, at least in certain areas, say soldiers and officers here.

"The good people will vote," said Spc. Jacob Garrison, 22, a Quarterhorse scout. On daily foot patrols, he said he meets lots of good people, even in the heart of the heart of the Sunni Iron Triangle.

"We've done everything we can to secure the vote," Garrison said. Now, soldiers will see if their desires and the dreams of the Iraqi people will intersect. Garrison said: "I want to go home, and they want a home."

Hawaiian town copes with loss

BY B.J. REYES
The Associated Press

KANELOE, Hawaii — Overcast skies shrouded this military town as residents grieved for the 27 troops from the Kaneohe Bay base who died in the U.S. military's deadliest day so far in the Iraq war.

The bedside community saw banner headlines Thursday spreading the news that the Kaneohe servicemen were among the 31 killed when their helicopter went down Wednesday in a sandstorm. It was the heaviest loss of Hawaii-based troops since Pearl Harbor.

Lt. Col. Owen Lovejoy, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, choked back tears as he described the moment he found out the crash had claimed so many lives under his command.

"It's difficult because you look at Marines like brothers," he said, standing near a memorial to the battle of Iwo Jima.

In a town where a yellow ribbon "Support Our Troops" magnet adorns the back of nearly every car, it was hard to find anyone who hadn't heard of the tragedy.

"The sheer number of 27 people from a little tiny place on a lit-

tle tiny island in the Pacific is certainly making a major impact," said the Rev. Wendell Silva, who offered a prayer for the dead and their families.

"I opened up the paper and said, 'Oh no,'" said Agnes Yamaguchi, 74. "I just don't want to read about it anymore. It's so hard. They're so young."

Although most of the troops lost in the crash were based in Hawaii, the others came from coast to coast, from Florida to New Hampshire, from Ohio to Oregon. One was a 28-year-old who never got the chance to meet his son born on Christmas Eve.

The Pentagon identified the sailor killed as Petty Officer 3rd Class John D. House, of Ventura, Calif.

House, whose first child was born last month, had written letters home describing the camaraderie and responsibility he felt for the Marines in his unit, his parents told the Ventura County Star. His son was born last month.

"In one of the letters he wrote, 'I know all of them ... even in the dark, by their mannerisms,'" Susan House of Simi Valley, Calif., read, choking back tears.

"I don't know how I am going to deal with losing any of them. It is my job to take care of them and keep them safe."

Attention Active Duty Military!

Earn your Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Information Technology Management or Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science ONLINE!

Touro University International has the Online Information Technology program for you

- B.S. and M.S. degrees in Information Technology Management or B.S. in Computer Science
- Special rates for military spouses

NO TUITION COST TO YOU! UP TO 28 CREDITS PER YEAR



TOURO UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

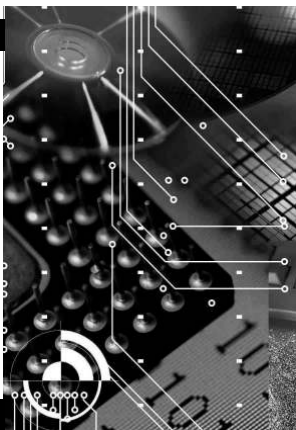
The University of Choice for the U.S. Military

www.touro.edu

5665 Plaza Dr., Third Floor, Cypress, CA 90630
800-579-3161 • 714-816-0366 • 714-816-0367 Fax

College of Information Technology e-mail: infocis@touro.edu
For inquiries log on to: <http://inquiry.touro.edu>

**Now Accepting
Applications
for Spring
Session.**



Scion xA By LJ Tuner

Remix yours at Ak, GUAM U.S.A.

Vehicle shown is modified with non-Genuine Scion parts and accessories. Any modification using non-Genuine Scion parts or accessories may void the Scion warranty, negatively impact vehicle performance and safety and may not be street legal.



SCION xA



ATKINS KROLL, INC. • 443 S. Marine Corps Dr., Tamuning, GU 96913 • Showroom Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am to 8pm Sat 9am to 6pm Sun 10am to 4pm • Tel: 646-1876 • akguam.com



SCION xB



SCION xA



Member

Personalization begins here



what moves you
scion.akguam.com

U.S. troops prepare to step back for vote

BY JOSEPH GORDONO
AND JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

RAMADI, Iraq — U.S. troops in Iraq have been instrumental in attempting to stabilize the country before Sunday's national elections. But once the polls open, they will be asked to play a secondary role.

At polling stations throughout the country, U.S. troops will provide the outer curtain of security, with Iraqi forces guarding the voting centers. And with political sensitivity about the election process high, the military has been educating its soldiers on what they should and should not say or do in the run-up to the vote.

"DO appear completely NEUTRAL in all matters relating to the Iraqi Elections," reads part of a "Soldier Information Card" distributed to troops throughout Iraq.

"DON'T appear to dislike any Iraqi parties or candidates," it later advises.

The message started at the top and worked its way down through the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment in Baghdad's Kadhimya neighborhood. Battalion officers down to platoon and squad leaders were given briefings and shown PowerPoint slides covering basic election information. They then met with the soldiers of their platoons and squads.

"Basically, we are not supposed to support any parties if anyone asks us any questions," said Spc. James Bonanno of Company A's 1st Platoon.

But, he said, those questions aren't normal or threatening.

"The Iraqis don't usually ask us ques-

tions about the election," he said. "They're more interested in us than in what's going on in their country. I'm sure if I spoke Arabic, they'd probably start a conversation about the elections."

"The majority don't speak English well enough to get into conversations," said Pvt. Ralph Young of 1st Platoon. "The extent of our conversations are, 'What's your name, where are you from?'"

Staff Sgt. James Mastrodomenico, a squad leader and mortar section leader with Company C, said the information card has come in handy in his dealings with prospective Iraqi voters, although most of the questions deal with election security.

And election security is key in the battalion's area.

The 4-31 soldiers have nearly 50 percent of the polling sites in the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division's area of operations, which covers most of northwest Baghdad and Abu Ghraib.

Mastrodomenico said that at one prospective polling site, a man and his three children who live nearby approached and asked if the building was a polling site and if he should move out for the elections.

"The biggest thing when we get approached is, 'Are the elections going to happen?'" he said. "We tell them, 'Of course,' and that they should get out and have their voices heard."

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, a 2nd Infantry Division unit that deployed from South Korea to Iraq, are responsible for polling stations in the restive city of Ramadi, where insurgents and U.S. forces clash nearly every day.

In recent days, the soldiers have been pa-



JOSEPH GORDONO/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment put up posters in Ramadi on Jan. 5 urging Iraqi citizens to participate in Sunday's elections.

trolling with Iraqi forces. They have largely found it easier to let the Iraqis hand out the election material, both because of the language barrier and the perception the Iraqis are leading the process.

"To see the Iraqi soldiers here is really good for the people. And it shows them that we are working toward a point where Iraqis will eventually be responsible for their own security," said 2nd Lt. Tad Tsuneyoshi, a platoon leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment.

At traffic checkpoints and during cor-

don-and-search operations, the Iraqi troops are the ones encouraging the Iraqis to vote. At times, though, the advantages of having Iraqi troops are lost in the enthusiasm for the upcoming elections.

The Iraqis, not bound by the same rules as the Americans, are more than willing to debate politics with their countrymen, often at length, resulting in a slowdown of operations.

E-mail Joseph Gordonono at: gordonono@starsandstripes.osd.mil

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.eastripes.osd.mil

Baghdad election info distributed smoothly

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — Soldiers sat in front of a fire early Thursday evening, talking and joking about the first tangible steps toward Sunday's historic election. Although the trucks roll in empty, they leave full of election material — voter registration information, election machines and, most importantly, ballots.

Whether or not they even noticed the trucks, the soldiers from Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, were witness to the first tangible steps toward Sunday's historic election. Although the trucks roll in empty, they leave full of election material — voter registration information, election machines and, most importantly, ballots.

The battalion's area of operation includes one of Baghdad's four polling distribution sites. For the past few days, trucks have been in and out from sunrise to sunset with materials destined for 31 election district offices and then to the 300 to 350 polling sites throughout the city.

The soldiers, meanwhile, have been using the warehouse complex as a forward patrol base, conducting operations and providing security for the site with Iraqi National Guard units and some non-Iraqi civilian guards.

Of the dozens of soldiers in the area, only two will occasionally make the short walk to the ware-

house. Capt. John O'Keeffe, the battalion's civil/military officer, and Sgt. Maj. Roy Souvenir, operations sergeant major, have spent the past few days helping the three Iraqi election officials and 30 or so workers.

There really isn't too much to do, they said. Mostly, they ask questions about how things are going and if anyone needs their help.

"We haven't stepped in [much]," he said. "It's going OK. I think our warehouse is going better than the other three."

"It's gone relatively smooth," said Souvenir. "We're not looking for perfection, we're looking for cooperation. There have been a few glitches, but nothing that couldn't be overcome."

The main difficulty came from the trucks contracted to carry election materials to the district offices. A handful just didn't show up.

Instead of causing a bottleneck, Iraqi National Guard troops stepped in with their own vehicles and a couple of loads were even taken on U.S. military vehicles.

"We dropped off two loads and this is the third load," said 2nd Lt. Mike Campbell, an adviser with Company A, 303rd Iraqi National Guard Battalion, as his soldiers waited to escort a truck out of the site.

"We're going to continue through the night," Campbell said. From the district offices they will be taking the election materi-



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

An Iraqi carries election material from a warehouse in Baghdad's Kadhimya neighborhood on Thursday. Troops from 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, are also at the site, providing protection.

als out to the polling sites themselves.

"They'll be working 'til it's done," he said. "Obviously before the elections, but we want to get it done the day before."

"We'll go all night and all day tomorrow to do it," he said, "and the Iraqis will do it. It's been great." Campbell said that the national guardsmen know that if they don't get the material to the polling sites, they won't get to vote themselves.

"They're anxious to vote for the first time," he said. "They're willing to put in the hard work and sacrifice it takes to make democracy work."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.eastripes.osd.mil

Iraqi expatriates hit polls all over world

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN

The Associated Press

SOUTHGATE, Mich. — Joyful tears and frequent applause marked the start of U.S. voting Friday among Iraqi expatriates choosing a new government for their homeland.

Votes were cast beginning at 7 a.m. inside an abandoned store in the Detroit suburb of Southgate. Periodically, cheers would erupt from one of the 15 polling stations.

"We feel happy now. This is like America, this voting," said Zoha Yess 64, who moved to Inkster nine years ago.

Nearly 26,000 Iraqi expatriates in the United States are expected to vote in Iraq's election. They are voting in four other U.S. cities: Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington and Nashville, Tenn. Iraqis also are voting in 13 other countries, not including Iraq.

In Egypt, dozens of Iraqis cast votes by midday, even though the country was left off the list of countries hosting official centers for Iraqis to cast absentee ballots.

Organizers of the virtual poll in Cairo said they would collect the votes and send them to Jordan to be counted there by the International Organization of Migration, the Geneva-based body managing the vote for Iraqis living abroad.

Jordan is one of the 14 countries where Iraqis can officially vote, but the IOM has said it will not recognize any results coming from outside those countries.

In Stockholm, thousands of exiled Iraqis, some wearing traditional Iraqi costumes under heavy winter coats, lined up amid heavy security in freezing temperatures outside Scandinavian polling stations Friday to vote.

And in Damascus, Syria, where the autocratic government had reservations about hosting the vote, Iraqis filed into schools and other makeshift polling stations.

Expatriate Iraqis were voting in 14 countries around the world, but in the Middle East, the election represented a rare exercise in democracy.

Security was tight at the 10 voting stations in Damascus and its suburbs, with private security guards frisking voters before they were allowed to enter.

According to the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration, there are 20,000 Iraqis living in Syria, but only 8 percent, or 16,581, have registered to vote. Many of the Iraqis here fled around the time of the U.S. invasion of Iraq to escape worsening security conditions.

The U.S. polls will be open through Sunday, which is election day in Iraq.

A total of 25,946 Iraqis registered to vote in the United States during the Jan. 17-25 registration period. The largest portion of those voters were in the Detroit area, which had 9,714 register.

Voters will select the 275-member assembly that will draft Iraq's new constitution.

Bush urged not to provoke North Korea

BY GLENN KESSLER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of lawmakers who recently traveled to North Korea have written President Bush to urge him not to make provocative statements about the reclusive nation in next week's State of the Union address, on the grounds that it will hurt the prospects for resumed talks on North Korea's nuclear programs.

Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., who led the six-member delegation, said senior North Korean leaders had told him they were ready to return to the talks but would be listening closely to statements from top administration officials.

North Korea has accused the Bush administration of having a "hostile policy,"

"We don't need to punch our chest and say how great we are and talk about the negative aspects of other societies."

Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa.

dating from Bush's State of the Union address in 2002. In that speech, he labeled North Korea as part of an "axis of evil" that included Iran and Saddam Hussein's government in Iraq.

During her confirmation hearings last week, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice declared that North Korea was one of six "outposts of tyranny," along with Belarus, Burma, Cuba, Iran and Zimbabwe.

"The key thing is not to make inflamma-

tory statements," Weldon said. "We don't need to punch our chest and say how great we are and talk about the negative aspects of other societies."

Weldon said he did not know how North Korea would react to Rice's statement, but he added: "I don't think harsh rhetoric helps. It only inflames regimes that are already paranoid about what your ultimate intentions are."

North Korea issued a relatively positive

statement after the congressional delegation's visit to Pyongyang, including an interest in being a "friend" of the United States.

But after Rice's confirmation hearings, the official North Korean news agency released a statement declaring that the United States is "a wrecker of democracy as it ruthlessly infringes upon the sovereignty of other countries and human rights of their peoples for the mere reason that they are different from it in ideology, system and religious belief."

Weldon said the North Koreans had made it clear the key speech will be the State of the Union. "That's the one they will be watching most clearly," he said, adding that he hopes the reference to North Korea in the speech will sidestep the problems in the country and focus instead on "the need for dialogue to resolve the problems."

\$7.3B Boeing deal

BELING — Six Chinese airlines have signed a deal to buy 60 of Boeing Co.'s new 7E7 jetliners for a combined total of about \$7.3 billion, one of the carriers announced Friday.

It is the largest firm order to date for Boeing's new fuel-efficient jet and gives Chicago-based Boeing a boost in its competition with European rival Airbus SAS for business in China.

The first of the jetliners will be delivered in 2008, Xiamen Airlines Co. said in a statement.

The Associated Press

Japan considers timing of sanctions against Pyongyang

The Yomiuri Shimbun/KRT

TOKYO — The Japanese government has begun debating how and when to apply economic sanctions against North Korea in the ongoing dispute over the remains of an abductee.

Japan's Foreign Ministry, in a statement Thursday, said it was "highly deplorable" that North Korea had called the DNA examination of the remains conducted by the Japanese government a fabrication. The ministry added

that a harsh response from Japan would have to be considered if North Korea failed to change its attitude.

The Japanese government last month announced that the remains North Korea handed over to Japan were not those of abductee Megumi Yokota, as Pyongyang had claimed.

"The time has come to discuss the actual schedule for economic sanctions," Shinzo Abe, the Liberal Democratic Party's acting sec-

retary general, said Thursday. "The government should consider setting a target date to end the negotiations and start the sanctions."

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said he was not yet thinking about setting a target date. "We must negotiate with [North Korea] as well. We have two issues to solve: the abductions and nuclear development. Therefore, we need both dialogue with them and pressure on them," he said.

The government began prepar-

ing a counterargument to the fabrication charges by assembling data to support the DNA exam that proved the remains were not those of Yokota.

Tokyo also began studying possible economic sanctions based on the revised Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law enacted last year. However, some officials are said to be cautious about economic sanctions, saying the impact would be limited if China and South Korea continued to trade with North Korea.

STOCK CAR SALE! TAKE A SHORT CUT TO A GREAT DEAL.

IF YOU'RE ON DUTY OVERSEAS, HERE'S YOUR ROUTE TO A GREAT DEAL. VISIT YOUR VOLVO REPRESENTATIVE. PICK YOUR FAVORITE LUXURY VOLVO FROM OUR STOCK OF U.S. SPEC 2005 MODELS. TAKE THE ADVANTAGE OF QUICK DELIVERY AND SAVE UP TO \$1,000 - ON TOP OF ALL THE BENEFITS OF VOLVO'S MILITARY PROGRAM. BUT YOU NEED TO ACT NOW. THIS SPECIAL STOCK CAR OFFER IS VALID UNTIL FEBRUARY 4 ONLY.

WWW.VOLVOCARS.COM/MILITARYSALES

VOLVO CARS MILITARY SALES. IT'S A GREAT DEAL.



QUICK DELIVERY. INSTANT SAVINGS.
ALL 2005 MODELS. LIMITED AVAILABILITY.

VOLVO
for life

Father reunites with son after tsunami

BY IRWAN FIRDAUS

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — For more than a month, Muhammad Jamil toured refugee camps and morgues in this tsunami-ravaged city looking for three of his children missing since the waves struck.

On Friday, he found his son — but there was still no news of his two daughters.

"I was always convinced he was still alive," said Jamil, after hugging 11-year-old Habibi, who was in the shower when his father arrived. "God was listening to the prayers I have been saying day and night."

The reunion — a rare piece of good news in this province where tens of thousands of parents have lost children to the waves — was organized by international aid group Save the Children, which has been tracing the relatives of lost kids.

Jamil, a 52-year-old cocoa farm-

er, was checking on his crops when the tsunami struck. Habibi was supposed to be staying with Jamil's eldest daughter, but had gone to play at a friend's house in the center of this provincial capital, where almost 40,000 people were killed.

Jamil's happiness was tempered by the knowledge that two of his daughters, ages 9 and 23, were still missing — and most likely dead. They had been at the 23-year-old daughter's house, which the waves washed away. His four other children were unhurt.

"I still long for my daughters, but at least I have Habibi now," said Jamil, whose wife died several years ago. He now lives at a refugee camp.

Save the Children, based in Westport, Conn., and other organizations are registering lost children in Indonesia and other tsunami-struck countries to reunite them with family members. The group has so far listed 72 children

who have been separated from their parents or are being looked after by other relatives.

Save the Children stopped using pictures and offering extensive information on lost kids, fearful that child smugglers might use the details to claim the youngsters as their own. Instead, it issues lists solely consisting of names and posts them in public places.

After the tsunami, Habibi was taken in by a family living close to his friend's house. Save the Children learned of his whereabouts from people living in a nearby refugee camp.

Jamil spent the last month visiting countless refugee camps and hospitals. He said he checked the corpses of hundreds of children littering the streets in the days after the disaster.

On Wednesday, Jamil discovered his son's name on a list at the Save the Children office in Banda Aceh.

Workers at the charity then



Khaerul Habibi, 11, center, is reunited with his father, Muhammad Jamil, left, and uncle Abdurrahman in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on Friday. At right is Hasanah, who cared for Habibi since a tsunami hit Banda Aceh.

showed Habibi pictures of five different men.

"I pointed straight to my father's picture," he said. Habibi, his hair still wet from his shower, smiled shyly as he met his father.

"I am happy to meet my dad," he said. "I want to stay with my father in the refugee camp, but I still want to be able to come here and play around with my friends."

Man recounts his struggle to survive bird flu

BY MARGIE MASON

The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — When Nguyen Thanh Hung first heard he had bird flu, he knew he had to stay awake despite a crushing headache and raging fever that fueled his unquenchable thirst. Days earlier, he'd watched his older brother battle the same symptoms, fade into a coma and die.

On Jan. 11, the day of his brother's funeral in their home province of Thai Binh, about 60 miles outside the capital of Hanoi, Hung, 42, developed a mild fever and sought treatment two days later.

As his condition worsened, the doctors confirmed that both Hung and his 47-year-old brother had been infected with the H5N1 strain of bird flu that has killed nine people in Vietnam since Dec. 30 in a new resurgence.

A total of 41 people in Vietnam and Thailand have died of it since the outbreak began. There's no vaccine or treatment, and about 70 percent of those infected have died.

With odds like those, Hung knew he must fight.

"It felt like my head was pressured by a vise



Nguyen Thanh Hung, 42, sits on his hospital bed in Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Wednesday. Hung is one of only two people to survive the recent bird flu outbreak that has killed 41 people.

and it was breaking into pieces," he told The Associated Press on Wednesday while sitting on his hospital bed in a quarantined room. "I told myself that I had to be alert and not be in the condition of my brother. I thought that if I went to sleep, I could go into a coma."

For three long days Hung's fever burned, peaking at 105.8 degrees and never dropping below 102.2. X-rays of Hung's right lung showed the rapid spread of the virus — one day a milky spot the size of two fingers cloud-

ed his lung, the next it had grown to a chalky area the size of a hand.

He struggled for air but never coughed, and guzzled up to 2½ gallons of water a day to try to cool the fever.

An investigation into the brothers' illness is still going on and the mode of transmission has not been firmly established, said Peter Horby, a WHO epidemiologist in Hanoi.

"There are a few survivors, but not many," WHO's Horby said.

"So he's lucky. That's all we can say."

Hong Kong heiress in will dispute

BY HELEN LUK

The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's richest woman, Nina Wang, was formally charged Friday for allegedly forging her late husband's will in an attempt to secure his multimillion dollar fortune, officials said.

Wang, chairwoman of Chinachem Group, appeared in court on charges of forgery and perverting the course of justice, a court document showed.

Wang, 67, was granted bail of \$7.1 million, again on March 23, said judiciary spokeswoman Jaime Or. She did not have to enter a plea Friday.

Wang said in a statement sent out by her law firm that she "now has the opportunity to establish her innocence in court." She declined further comment.

Wang's husband, Teddy Wang, was kidnapped in 1990 and was never seen again. He was declared dead in 1999.

In 2002, a court ruled that Teddy Wang's will awarding his wife \$128 million was probably forged by Nina Wang. The court handed Teddy Wang's estate to his father, Wang Din-shin.

During the 171-day trial, Wang Din-shin accused Nina Wang of adultery by showing pictures of her with an alleged lover.

Nina Wang never responded publicly to the accusation, but her version of the will ended with the handwritten phrase, "one life, one love."

Nina Wang was subsequently arrested on forgery charges, but was soon released on a bond of \$641,000. Nina Wang built her husband's company, Chinachem Group, into a major property developer after his disappearance. Forbes magazine last year estimated her worth at \$2.3 billion.

Letters show Nazi doctor never expressed regret

BY GAVIN RABINOWITZ

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — In previously unseen post-World War II letters, notorious Nazi doctor Josef Mengele describes a banal existence as a fugitive in South America, complaining about his lazy Brazilian housekeeper and lamenting his weekly trips to town to eat sturgeon at a German bakery — one of the small pleasures I very much enjoy."

Mengele — who met newly ar-



Mengele

rived prisoners at the Auschwitz death camp, those who went to the gas chambers and carried out horrific experiments on children, twins and dwarfs — also writes of his longing and love for Germany.

"How is the Fatherland, is it still the Fatherland?" Mengele wrote to a friend in a letter dated November 1972 — according to an excerpt from some of the letters published Friday by the Israeli newspaper Yediot Achronot, as the world marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz camp Nazi-occupied Poland.

The letters show that Mengele, who eluded capture after the war ended and lived secretly in South America, most of the time in Bra-

zil, until his death in 1979, died convinced of the superiority of what Nazis called the Aryan race. He also never expressed regret in the letters and praised the apartheid regime that governed South Africa until 1994.

The first published papers detailing Mengele's life were printed in 1985 in the German weekly magazine Bunte. Those excerpts portrayed a bitter fighter in constant fear of apprehension, plagued by nightmares and sleeplessness, but defiant about Germany's murderous Nazi period.

IN THE STATES

Rice takes oath of office

BY BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice took the oath as secretary of state — a second time — with President Bush's assurance to the world that she will lead by "character and conviction and wisdom."

Rice pledged, in response, to use diplomacy to widen the community of democracy. "You have given us our mission and we are ready to serve our great country and the cause of freedom for which it stands," she said.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a neighbor in Washington's Watergate apartment building, administered the 137-year-old oath in the State Department's formal dining room Friday. Rice's uncle Alto Ray and two aunts, Geona Patterson and Mattie Bonds, held the Bible.

It was her second swearing-in. The first was in a private ceremony at the White House Wednesday night with White House chief of staff Andrew H. Card Jr. officiating. Ginsburg praised Rice as a person of "exceptional talent."

Both Bush and Rice paid tribute in their remarks to Colin Powell, who was secretary of state in Bush's first term. "All of us admire and appreciate the service of Colin Powell," the president said.



Condoleezza Rice is sworn in Friday as secretary of state in Washington. From left to right are: President Bush; Genoa McPhatter, Rice's aunt; Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Alto Ray, Rice's uncle; and Rice.

"Colin Powell left big shoes to fill when he left the State Department," Bush added. "Condoleezza Rice is the person to fill them."

Bush catapulted Rice to the role of top U.S. diplomat after she served for four years as his national security adviser. "Condi's appointment and confirmation as secretary of state marks a remarkable transition in what is already a career of outstanding service and accomplishment," he said.

Calling his trusted adviser by her nickname, Condi, throughout, Bush said his own family had been "enriched by our friendship with this remarkable person."

Rice hit the ground running Thursday with a pep talk to cheering State Department employees crowded into a lobby, meetings on Iraq and the tsunami disaster and telephone conversations with seven foreign leaders as she planned a trip to Europe and the Middle East next week.

Gay couple sues Calif.

The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — A gay couple wants a federal judge to overturn state and federal laws against same-sex marriage, arguing that those laws violate their civil rights and are equivalent to racial segregation.

Calling gays "the most oppressed minority since slavery," the couple's attorney Richard C. Gilbert on Thursday told U.S. District Judge Gary Taylor "It now falls to you to uphold the principles of liberty."

The case is one of the few challenges to bans on same-sex marriage pending in federal court. Most litigation on the issue is in the state court system, where advocates believe they have a better chance of success.

The five-hour hearing focused on such basic questions as the purpose of marriage, the definition of discrimination and whether a federal court should get involved in an issue that is the subject of active litigation in state courts.

Officers arrested on conspiracy charges

CHICAGO — Four veteran police officers conspired with drug dealers to steal money, drugs and guns from competing dealers, authorities said in announcing nine arrests.

Other officers also were part of the conspiracy, authorities said Thursday.

"If I were the other officers, I would be picking up the phone and calling us because we intend to get to the bottom of it," U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald said, suggesting that any officers with guilty knowledge could help themselves by becoming witnesses.

Napalm, mines seized from hospital worker

DENTON, Texas — Hand grenades, homemade bombs and mines are among items in an arsenal confiscated from a hospital worker's home.

Randall "Randy" Todd remained jailed Friday in lieu of \$200,000 bond on charges of aggravated assault and assault on a peace officer.

Police said the 51-year-old employee of Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas was accused of shooting a construction worker who was in a portable toilet at a construction site across the street, then attacking a law officer during a later investigation.

From The Associated Press

WILEYX
EVER
HVP
HIGH VELOCITY PROTECTION

PT-1SCL
INTERCHANGEABLE THREE-LENS SYSTEM
MSR: 4240-01-610-7851

Comes w/ three lenses (Tinted / Clear / Light Rust),
cleaning cloth & tactical case for storage.

- * Preferred Eyewear of Thousands Conducting OEF / OIF
- * Meets ANSI Z87.1-2003 High Velocity Protection
- * Meets MIL-PRF-31013 V0 Ballistic Fragmentation
- * Low Profile Design for Universal Helmet & NVG Compatibility
- * Provides 100% UVA & UVB Protection
- * Field Proven (that says it all)

for more information, call 1.800.776.7842 or visit www.wileyx.com



Investigators examine wreckage from a train crash Thursday in Glendale, Calif. The crash, which killed 11 people, occurred after an apparently suicidal man parked his SUV in the path of a commuter train Wednesday and then jumped out. On Friday, the man's arraignment was postponed as he received medical evaluation.

Train wreck suspect's hearing delayed

BY PAUL CHAVEZ
The Associated Press

GLENDAL, Calif. — Investigators picked through the wreckage of two commuter trains, searching for evidence to build a murder case against the suicidal man who triggered the crash by leaving his SUV on the tracks. Eleven people died and nearly 200 were injured.

Juan Manuel Alvarez, 25, appeared in court Friday to be arraigned on murder charges, but the hearing was delayed so the suspect could undergo further medical evaluation.

After Alvarez left his car Wednesday morning and stood by as the trains derailed in a fiery chain-reaction crash, he ran to the porch of a nearby home and

used scissors to stab himself and slash his wrists, according to reports in two local newspapers.

A woman in the house called 911, and Alvarez told paramedics what happened as he was being rushed to a hospital. They radioed police, who arrested him. He had previously been unclear when Alvarez harmed himself.

Sixty of the injured were treated at the scene and the rest were taken to hospitals. An incomplete tally Thursday showed at least 23 people remained hospitalized, seven in critical condition, and more than 80 had been released.

Emergency workers officially ended their recovery efforts Thursday after determining there were no more survivors or bodies to be found.

Alvarez is under suicide watch at a hospital's jail ward.

'Adult' material OK'd for Jackson trial

BY ROBERT JABLON
The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — Dozens of adult-oriented books, magazines and DVDs seized at Michael Jackson's Neverland ranch — one with the fingerprints of Jackson and his accuser — can be used as evidence in the singer's upcoming trial, the judge ruled Friday.

The judge also ruled that Jackson's accuser should testify in open court instead of in a closed courtroom with an audio hookup for the media.

At a hearing just three days before the start of jury selection, Judge Rodney Melville permitted most of the proposed evidence to

be used at trial but said the prosecution could not refer to the materials as pornography, obscenity or erotic. Instead, the words "adult" or "sexually-explicit" can be used, he said.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Ron Zonen said the 50 print and video items

that were seized in 2003 included graphic sexual material that was heterosexual and homosexual in nature. The material also included

nude photos of models who may have been 18 but looked much younger, he said.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. countered that all the materials seized were legally available. In the case of the magazine with the prints, he said, evidence will show Jackson took it away from his accuser and looked it up.

Jackson, 46, has pleaded not guilty to charges of molesting a 13-year-old boy and plying him with alcohol.

Jonathon matter, the judge ruled that jurors will be allowed to see a British documentary broadcast on ABC-TV in 2003 that contains footage of Jackson and his accuser holding hands and Jackson defending his practice of sleeping in the same bed with children.



Jackson

Bush investment plan akin to TSP

Officials say proposal to alter Social Security model now set

BY LAURA MECKLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's advisers have settled on a proposal for structuring the personal accounts they hope to create in Social Security, while on Capitol Hill, Senate Democrats were launching an effort to defeat the plan altogether.

Under a plan recommended to Bush, the private accounts would resemble many company-sponsored retirement plans, with just a handful of investment options.

By default, workers would be enrolled in a "life cycle" account, in which investments become more conservative as investors age, if they do not choose one of the other options, according to two officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

On Friday, Senate Democrats were holding a session aimed at showcasing the problems with Bush's overall plan to let workers divert a portion of their Social Security taxes into individual accounts that could be invested in the stock market.

Bush met this month with his Social Security advisers working to write a legislative plan. Yet to be decided are several big ques-

tions, including how large the private accounts should be, how much guaranteed benefits would be cut and how to pay as much as \$2 trillion needed in the first 10 years to effect the transition to a new system.

In devising a structure for the private accounts, the Bush administration is modeling its proposal after the Thrift Savings Plan, a tax-deferred retirement investment plan similar to a 401(k). The idea is to minimize risk for people at the outset by offering as few as three to five diversified investment funds.

Bush said in December that his plan would make sure people could not invest "in a frivolous fashion."

Under the Thrift Savings Plan, federal workers have five investment options, including government and corporate bond funds, a stock fund that tracks the S&P 500, an international fund and other stock funds.

Under the emerging Bush plan for Social Security, the default investment would begin with investments that have greater potential for both risk and reward and shift to safer bonds as a worker ages, officials in and outside the administration said.

Ultimate Gaming Laptop
\$50 Military Discount

• Alternates accepted
• **widowpc** - International and APO shipping
• Veteran owned company

www.widowpc.com

Living Offbase? Save \$\$ with our New Low Rates!

*Ask for new Customers based on equivalent rate to US
*Existing Customers Please Call E-Mail for New Rate Plan

Japan 9.9 C 48 States	to the USA 7.9 C	Korea 5.9 C	Remote 5.9 C
---------------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------

From OFFBASE From OFFBASE Calling via DSN

*Ask for your **FREE** Personal 800 Number in the US for Friends and Family to call you only, at your expense, and at low US rates.

*Ask for a **FREE** ONECARD Calling Card, which can be used in over 50 countries and, where permitted, over the DSN network, and save up to 90% over ATR11

*Cellphone calls at higher rate.

MILITEL
Calling Services
Serving the Military Since 1994

For more info or secure sign up:
www.militel.net

CALL TOLL FREE 24 HRS

Japan	00-531-13-0436
S.Korea	00-308-14-0025
E-mail	info@militel.net

3.2 Ghz
DVR 1024MB Ram
NO MONTHLY RENTALS
Wireless

\$175
per month

800 111 1111

800 111 1111

Jobs up in smoke for those who light up

BY DANIEL COSTELLO
Los Angeles Times

Employers have recently tried every carrot they can think of — including cash incentives and iPods — to convince employees to quit smoking. Now they are trying the stick.

Pointing to rising health costs, and the oversized proportion of insurance claims attributed to smokers, employers around United States are refusing to hire applicants who smoke and, sometimes, firing employees who refuse to quit.

"Employers are realizing the majority of health costs are spent on a small minority of workers," says Bill Whitmer, chief executive of the Health Enhancement Research Organization, an employer and health-care coalition in Birmingham, Ala.

Federal and state laws bar employers

from not hiring or firing workers based on their race, religion or gender. Some states have enacted laws offering similar protections for smokers. But experts say workers in nearly half the states have few legal options if employers decided to prohibit them from smoking outside the workplace.

Employees in many states "work at the discretion of their employers and can be terminated for almost any reason as long as it's not illegal," says Stephen Sugarman, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

Last fall, Union Pacific Corp., an Omaha, Neb.-based transportation company, stopped hiring smokers in seven states. Company officials said the move was made to help quell employee health costs, which have jumped more than 10 percent each of the last three years. Weyco Inc., an employee benefits company with 200 employees in

Okemos, Mich., began random drug tests for nicotine on Jan. 1, saying it would fire workers who failed the test or refused to quit smoking. (Four Weyco employees resigned rather than take the test, says the company's president, Howard Weyers.) The Riverside County (Calif.) Sheriff's Department plans soon to require applicants for deputy sheriff positions to sign a no-smoking agreement.

In most cases, employers are asking workers to report their smoking habits voluntarily or adding disclaimers such as "nonsmokers only" to job postings. Others are requiring workers to take breathalyzer tests that can catch traces of carbon monoxide in their lungs or submit to urine tests to detect nicotine.

Employees, workers' rights groups and some unions are decrying the smoking bans as an invasion of individual rights. "What you do in your own home after work or on

the weekend is none of your boss' business," says Lewis Malby, president of the National Workrights Institute in Princeton, N.J. "The last time I checked, tobacco is a legal product."

Malby says his organization is trying to persuade some states to pass broader worker-protection laws.

Critics of the smoking bans say it's not clear that smokers are more costly than other workers, such as people who are obese. While some studies have shown that smokers have higher absentee and lower productivity rates than non-smokers, economists who study the issue say the research is limited.

It's possible, they say, that smokers don't dramatically increase health costs with chronic and expensive conditions such as emphysema, heart disease and cancer until they're much older, when they're often employed elsewhere or retired.

Father arrested in girl's slaying at N.Y. parochial school

The Associated Press

HIGHLAND FALLS, N.Y. — A man accused of killing his 7-year-old daughter and leaving her body in the boys' room of her school seemed to be getting his life back together after a drug ar-

rest, police said.

Christopher Rhodes was arrested after the body of first-grader Jerica Rhodes was discovered with multiple stab wounds shortly after classes started Thursday at her parochial school in this little village next to West Point. The

27-year-old son of a former police chief was being held without bail Friday in the county jail.

He denies that he killed his daughter, prosecutors said.

The motive in the killing was unclear, and no weapon has been found, police said. Blood found at

Rhodes' home was being tested to see if it matched the victim's. Police were still collecting evidence from Rhodes' house and car Friday morning.

"It's a horrific act perpetrated against the most innocent of victims, a child," said state police Capt. Wayne Olson.

Residents in this hillside village, some 50 miles up the Hudson River from New York City, said Rhodes had a troubled past. He pleaded guilty two years ago to a drug possession charge, which was reduced to a misdemeanor after he went through a counseling program, police said.

Police said they contacted Jerica's mother, who was estranged from the girl and Rhodes and living in another upstate town. They would not identify the mother.

Jerica lived with her paternal grandparents in the village. A woman who answered the phone

listed for the family declined to comment Friday.

Jerica was last seen at 8:10 a.m. when Rhodes walked her into school during an assembly at the Sacred Heart of Jesus School. Police never made it to the assembly. Investigators believe she was killed at the school.

The 240-student Roman Catholic elementary school remained closed Friday, and a police fence encircled the grounds. Nestled against the fence were candles, two small teddy bears and a Piglet doll. The school's Rev. Jack Arlotta said parents were in a "state of shock." "There are two places where children should be safe: At home with their families and at school," Miller said.

Rhodes' lawyer said his client loved his daughter.

"I can't believe, for the life of me, that he would have done anything like that," Sol Lesser told the Times Herald-Record of Middletown.



**Experience everything you enjoy
about the military.**

Continue your service with a part-time job in the Air Force Reserve and enjoy an experience that goes above and beyond. In most cases, you'll retain your rank and continue to accrue retirement benefits. To learn more, go to www.afreserve.com/prlor or call DSN: 314-480-2326.



DSN: 314-480-2326 ★ www.afreserve.com/prlor

Subway chief misspoke

NEW YORK — New York City Transit's president apologized for upsetting commuters when he said it would take up to five years to restore full service on two subway lines damaged by fire — an estimate he later drastically lowered.

"I must have misspoke or didn't clarify myself very well on that," Lawrence Reuter said Thursday at a Metropolitan Transportation Authority board meeting. "I'm sorry."

Officials now believe it will take between six and nine months to completely restore service on the A and C subway lines. The lines were impaired by a fire Sunday that destroyed a signal room at the Chambers Street station in lower Manhattan.

P&G buys Gillette

NEW YORK — Procter & Gamble Co., the leading U.S. maker of household products — whose brands include Crest, Pampers, Tide and Charmin, is buying the razor and battery maker Gillette Co. for \$57 billion in a deal that will create the world's biggest

consumer-products enterprise, the companies announced Friday.

The merger, which must still be approved by regulators and shareholders, would create a company with revenues of more than \$60 billion that would have even greater clout against mass-market retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which have been pressuring consumer product suppliers to keep costs low.

Wal-Mart benefit policy

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The nation's largest employer is expanding the definition of "immediate family" in its ethics policy to include an employee's same-sex partner.

The Wal-Mart Stores Inc. policy change — disclosed in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Wednesday — accounts for the laws in some states that recognize domestic partnerships and civil unions, officials said.

Company spokesman Gus Whitcomb on Thursday declined to say if the change would affect employee benefits.

From The Associated Press

'70s terror scenarios similar to attacks today

BY FRANK BASS AND
RANDY HERSCHAFT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Car bombs are set along one of New York City's busiest streets, timed to explode as the Israeli prime minister arrives. A tipster warns that FBI agents questioning suspected extremists in Chicago are in danger. Another informant claims terrorists are planning attacks on Los Angeles synagogues.

It sounds like the "threat matrix," the Bush administration's weekly summary of potential attacks.

But these threats were com-

plied in weekly CIA reports more than 30 years ago for the Cabinet Committee to Combat Terrorism, a Nixon-era task force created after the killings of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

"The scenarios were there in the early 1970s," said Brian Jenkins, a senior Rand Corp. adviser who wrote one of the earliest reports on the long-term future of terrorism. "The scenarios are still here in the early 21st century."

The Associated Press reported Sunday that declassified documents it obtained show the task force envisioned in the 1970s

many of the same terror threats that would greet President Bush decades later.

Intelligence reports from the FBI and CIA that were sent to the Cabinet panel back then show officials feared a terror attack would reach America's shores, perhaps carried out by Palestinian extremists.

"Although terrorist activities have taken place primarily in Europe and the Middle East, rumors and recent reports indicate that a Palestinian cell dedicated to violence is in place in the U.S. and allegedly is plotting with unnamed American extremist groups, some spectacular acts against American

nationals and/or businesses," said one threat assessment compiled in fall 1972.

"These acts could be in the form of a bazooka or a suitcase rocket-launched attack against aircraft landing, loading or waiting to take off, a massacre at an airport similar to that experienced at Lod Airport, Tel Aviv, or the hijacking of an aircraft for the purpose of destroying it and its passengers if demands for the release of Arab prisoners are not met," the report said.

In the years after Munich, secret weekly situation reports compiled by the CIA show counterintelligence officials worried about:

■ A plot to attack an Israeli airliner on the ground in New York City with submachine guns and rockets.

■ A plan by Black September to sink a Miami-based cruise ship with 400 U.S. passengers en route to Israel to celebrate the Jewish high holy days.

■ A threatened murder of a Greek Orthodox minister in Detroit if he didn't influence the Athens government to release terrorists held in Greek jails.

■ A potential assassination of former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who was visiting the University of Utah.

None of those four threatened attacks took place.



A'cross Travellers Bureau

LICENSE No. 635

Best Deals Online → www.across-travel.com

This Week's SPECIALS

DIRECT LOS ANGELES \$43,000 \$381 2/11-2/22	DIRECT NEWYORK \$38,500 \$380 2/19-2/18	USA East Coast \$47,000 \$421 2/12-2/26 MON - FRI	HONOLULU \$55,000 \$500 2/14-2/28	LONDON, PARIS, FRANKFURT/DRE \$55,000 \$500	SYDNEY \$69,000 \$621 2/13-2/28 TUE, THU, SAT, SUN
DIRECT BANGKOK \$39,800 \$362 2/13-2/28 SUN - WED	DIRECT SINGAPORE \$36,000 \$321 2/9-2/23	DIRECT HONG KONG \$39,000 \$355 2/9-2/23	SHANGHAI \$26,000 \$236 2/11-2/28	DEMPASAR \$56,000 \$509 2/13-2/28 SUN, TUE, THU	SEOUL \$23,800 \$216 2/11-2/23

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES

* INCLUDES AIR & HOTEL (BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)
* TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AND AIRPORT TAXES NOT INCLUDED

GUAM 4days \$39,800~ (\$362) **SHANGHAI 3days \$29,800~ (\$271)**
2/6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 27, 28 3/6, 7, 14 2/14, 21

SINGAPORE 4days \$37,800~ (\$344)
2/19, 22

BUSINESS CLASS

LOS ANGELES \$155,000 (\$1,409) **SINGAPORE \$226,000 (\$2,055)**
2/11-2/23 All Nippon Airways 2/11-2/18 TUE-FRI
LONDON, PARIS \$237,000 (\$2,155) **HONG KONG \$109,000 (\$991)**
2/14-2/28 DIRECT 2/13-2/28 SUN-THU
BANGKOK \$155,000 (\$1,409) **SEOUL \$79,000 (\$718)**
2/11-2/28 2/11-2/28

ENJOY!! JAPAN

HOTEL + AIR/TICKETS

(1 NIGHT STAY / ROUND TRIP)

SAPPORO \$21,500~ \$1105 2/16-2/18 2 persons per room	OKINAWA \$28,000~ \$1215 2/16-2/18 2 persons per room	OSAKA \$20,500~ \$1015 2/16-2/18 2 persons per room	HIROSHIMA \$21,500~ \$1135 2/16-2/18 2 persons per room
--	--	--	--

Price may vary according to departure/return date
FAMILY ROOM CHARGE : 4 PERSONS PER ROOM. SEMI-DOUBLE ROOM CHARGE : 2 PERSONS PER ROOM.

The Credit Card For Travellers!

MAPWORLD CARD

NICOS VISA / NICOS MASTER

APPLY TODAY!

ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP FOR FREE!

IMPORTANT

(Other restrictions may apply)
Payment Japanese yen only.
Campaign prices are for cash payment.
Credit cards accepted (Visa/Master) at office.
Price may vary depending on departure date.
Subject to availability.
Not included in these prices.
Please inform us if you read about these prices in Stars & Stripes.
** means starting from those prices.
Japan Domestic Package available. Taxes in advance.
Last minute booking OK!

HIRO

Map of Hiro area showing locations of various services and businesses.

03-5795-4711

SHIBUYA

Map of Shibuya area showing locations of various services and businesses.

03-5467-0077

SHINJUKU

Map of Shinjuku area showing locations of various services and businesses.

03-3340-6745

IKEBUKURO

Map of Ikebukuro area showing locations of various services and businesses.

03-5391-3227

YOKOHAMA

Map of Yokohama area showing locations of various services and businesses.

045-322-7525

Snake show upsets some

The Associated Press

ALBANY, Ga. — Snake hunters planned to gather Saturday for the 45th annual Whigham Rattlesnake Roundup, a serpent spectacle that attracts thousands to rural southwest Georgia.

The event provokes venomous opposition from environmentalists and animal-rights groups who claim the roundups are cruel and threaten Georgia's eastern diamondback population.

Sponsored by the Whigham Community Club, the roundups are a major fund-raising event in Whigham.

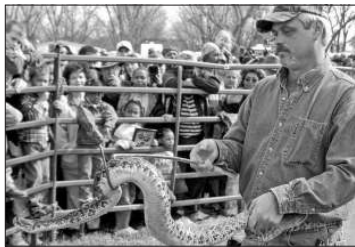
"Everyone has their own agenda," said club president Dave Ulmer. "Ours is just to support our community. Our intention is not to upset the ecosystem."

Hunters bring the slithering rattlers to a snake ring, where they are weighed and measured and used in demonstrations. Prizes are awarded to the hunter with the most rattlesnakes and the one with the largest.

The events attract upward of 20,000 people. "If you face one eyeball to eyeball, there's a little fear," Ulmer said. "It creates an aura of excitement."

The snakes are eventually slaughtered for their hides, used to make outdoor apparel.

Environmentalists and animal-rights groups say the traditional roundups promote animal cruelty and threaten populations. "We think the public displays of the mistreatment of snakes reinforce the mistaken idea that snakes are worthless animals, when they are extremely valuable to the ecosystem," said Andrea Cimino, a coordinator with the Humane Society of the United States. "They are predators of rodents and other animals that humans may not like."



LaRue Sheffield shows off an eastern diamondback rattlesnake at the 44th Annual Whigham Rattlesnake Roundup in Whigham, Ga., last year. Snake hunters brought 320 rattlesnakes to the roundup.

SAN DIEGO L.A.
IACE TRAVEL NETWORK
www.iace.co.jp/english
SEATTLE ATLANTA

ICE IACE TRAVEL HOT NEWS
Call us last for the best price.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO/FROM NARITA FREE JOIN IACE TABI CLUB Get travel specials thru the Email!

USA SPECIAL!
LOS ANGELES \$387~ 2/4-2/9
USA EAST 1CITY \$360~ 2/7-10, 2/14-18, 2/21-24

ASIA SPECIAL!
SINGAPORE \$360~ 2/1-3/1
HONG KONG \$281~ 2/23-28
SEOUL \$219~ 2/19-16, 2/29-23, 2/27-31
MANILA \$373~ 2/6-2/28 SUN-FRI
BANGKOK \$266~ 2/11-2/28

MILITARY SPECIAL! Changeable tickets! —
GUAM \$333~ 2/4-3/1
HONOLULU \$692~ 2/4-3/1

USA TO JAPAN
L.A. LAS VEGAS SAN FRANCISCO \$449~ 2/7-2/28 MON-FRI
NEW YORK, BUFFALO \$599~ 2/7-2/28 MON-FRI

JAPAN DOMESTIC PACKAGE
(BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)
- BULLET TRAIN & HOTEL -
ONSEN \$96~
KYOTO 2DAYS \$185~
HIROSHIMA 2DAYS \$240~
KYOTO&HIROSHIMA 3DAYS \$358~

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGE
(BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)
**** MEETING SHIP SPECIAL PACKAGE ****
HONG KONG 4DAYS \$224,225
For passenger from Narita \$53,900 2/25 ~ \$48,500
For local point guest \$24,225 ~ \$13,000

*TAXES: LIAISON/STATION/PORT/INFORMATION/INSURANCE/SEMI-ACCREDITATION/AVIATION/SECURITY/

Good News!
GET \$10 OFF COUPON
 with purchase of \$500 or more (per ticket)!!

*Only available when you come to our Yokosuka/Atsugi/Yokota office
 *This coupon is valid after your next international trip from Japan
 *Other restrictions may apply. Please ask agent for more details!

IMPORTANT (Other restrictions may apply)
 Campaign prices are for cash payment.
 Credit cards accepted (Visa/Master/Amex/Discover)
 Price may vary depending on departure date.
 Subject to availability.
 Tax not included in these prices.
 Please inform us if you read about these prices in Stars & Stripes.
 P means starting from those prices
 Japan Domestic Package require 10days advance.
 Last minute booking OK!

FROM FUKUOKA
- FLYING TO MANILA SPECIAL -
GOOD FOR 14 DAYS \$408~ 2/1-2/9
GOOD FOR 14 DAYS \$618~ 2/1-2/28 (DIRECT FLIGHT)
GOOD FOR 2 MONTH \$588~ 2/1-2/28

- EARLY BIRD FEBRUARY SPECIAL (ASK CONDITIONS) -
SEUL \$168~ ASK DATE **HONG KONG \$338~** ASK DATE

USA(1CITY) \$688~ 2/1-2/28 **GUAM \$340~** 2/1-2/28
NEW YORK \$518~ 2/1-2/28 **BANGKOK \$378~** ASK DATE
LOS ANGELES \$468~ 2/1-2/28 **SEOUL \$158~** ASK DATE
HONOLULU \$468~ ASK DATE

Package Tour
GUAM FREE \$608~ ASK DATE **HONOLULU FREE \$618~** ASK DATE
PLAN 4DAYS **PLAN 6DAYS** *OTHER CHARGES WILL BE ADDED BY AIRFARE

*YOUR DOMESTIC RESERVATION MUST BE DONE BY 1 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. *PRICES DEPEND ON HOTELS AND FLIGHTS. PLEASE ASK DETAILS LINE HOTELS.

FROM HONOLULU
Package Tour
OKINAWA 2DAYS \$308~
(IN ECONOMY HOTEL) 2/14-3/1 (MON-FRI)

*FOR DOMESTIC, RESERVATION MUST BE DONE BY 10 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE
 *PRICES DEPEND ON HOTELS AND FLIGHTS.
 PLEASE ASK DETAILS LINE HOTELS.

FROM MISAWA
LOS ANGELES SAN FRANCISCO LAS VEGAS \$799~ 3/4-3/16 MON-FRI
NEW YORK \$750~ 3/4-3/16 MON-FRI

LAST MINUTE SPECIAL From MISAWA **FEBRUARY PACKAGE SPECIAL**
USA 1 CITY \$805~ 2/4-2/28 MON-FRI
LOS ANGELES \$725~ 2/4-2/9
BEIJING \$710~ 2/19-2/28
MANILA \$735~ 2/19-2/28
BANGKOK \$810~ 2/19-2/28
HONOLULU \$450~ 2/19-2/28

MARCH SPECIAL From MISAWA
USA 1 CITY \$890~ 3/4-3/16 MON-FRI
BEIJING \$640~ 3/1-3/17
SINGAPORE \$695~ 3/1-3/31
MANILA \$755~ 3/1-3/18
HONG KONG \$665~ 3/1-3/17
BANGKOK \$740~ 3/1-3/18
HONOLULU \$730~ 3/1-3/18

JAPAN PACKAGE
(INCLUDES AIR & HOTEL BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)
OSAKA/KYOTO 3DAYS \$320~
TOKYO 2DAYS \$258~
FUKUOKA 3DAYS \$505~
SAPPORO 3DAYS \$265~

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGE
BEIJING 4DAYS \$750~ from Misawa
HONG KONG 4DAYS \$788~ from Misawa
SINGAPORE 4DAYS \$888~

For YOKOSUKA
 OTHER KANTO USA, CUSTOMERS
046-828-6471
 FAX: 046-828-6755
 e-mail: ysa@iace.co.jp
 MON-FRI 9:00-18:30 SAT 9:00-17:00

For ATSUGI, ZAMA
 CUSTOMERS
 WE ARE ON BASE
DSN 264-6297/8
 FAX: 0467-79-4851
 e-mail: atb@iace.co.jp
 MON-FRI 9:00-18:30

For YOKOTA
 CUSTOMERS
042-539-4430
 FAX: 042-539-4432
 e-mail: ykj@iace.co.jp
 MON-FRI 9:00-18:30 SAT 10:00-17:30

For IWAKUNI
 CUSTOMERS
0120-977-433
 FAX: 082-465-0131
 e-mail: ijk@iace.co.jp
 MON-FRI 10:00-18:30 SAT 10:00-17:30

For SASEBO
 CUSTOMERS
0120-922-154
 FAX: 082-465-1116
 e-mail: spk@iace.co.jp
 MON-FRI 10:00-18:30 SAT 10:00-17:30

For MISAWA
 CUSTOMERS
0120-65-4223
 FAX: 011-219-2766
 e-mail: spk@iace.co.jp
 MON-FRI 10:00-18:30 SAT 10:00-17:30

SAN DIEGO L.A.

WASHINGTON D.C.

DALLAS

LAS VEGAS

HONOLULU

WEST L.A.

COLUMBUS

BOSTON WASHINGTON D.C. ORLANDO CHICAGO VANCOUVER NEW YORK BOSTON WASHINGTON D.C.

Study: Fidgeting helps weight loss

BY LEE BOWMAN

Scripts Howard News Service

We all know them, those frustratingly lean machines who eat as much or more fattening stuff than we do, never deliberately exercise, and yet don't put on the pounds.

Now, an elaborate new study by researchers at the Mayo Clinic helps explain, at least in part, how the metabolisms of seemingly identical couch potatoes with the same lifestyles can be so different.

It turns out that obese couch potatoes sit still, on average, 150 minutes more each day than lean couch potatoes, who despite equally sedentary jobs and non-existent exercise habits, manage to walk, play, fidget and generally move around enough each day to burn about 350 calories more than the obese couch denizens do.

The researchers, who report their findings Friday in the *Journal Science*, call this phenomenon "non-exercise activity thermogenesis" (NEAT for short) and have spent nearly a decade designing the instruments and techniques to capture a person's every move.

"Our patients have told us for years that they have low metabolism, and as caregivers, we have never quite understood what that means, until today," said Dr. James Levine, an endocrinologist at the Rochester, Minn., clinic and lead author of the study.

"The answer is that they have low NEAT, which means they have a biological need to sit more. A person can expend calories either by going to the gym, or through everyday activities. Our study shows that the calories that people burn in their everyday activities are far, far more important in obesity than we previously imagined."



SCIENCE MAGAZINE/SHNS

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic attached sensors to a group of patients in order to determine why some couch potatoes are lean.

Levine's team laid the groundwork for the current study with another *Science* report six years ago, when they noted that a group of equally overfed volunteers gained different amounts of weight and suggested that the difference was explained by individual differences in how they expended energy outside formal exercise.

The next step was to come up with a way to measure the energy used by every toe tap and calculate the calorie burn differences. Central to the effort was the Physical Activity Monitoring System, a movement-monitoring system that borrows technology from fighter-jet control panels.

Movement sensors were embedded in specially designed underwear worn by 20 volunteers 24 hours a day.

Faith Christian Fellowship Church

"Cultivated to Grow and Empowered to Go"

Church for all people! Come worship the Lord with us.

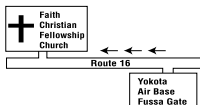
REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

5:00 am - 6:00 am	Morning Prayer (Daily)
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Noonday Prayer (Tues/Wed/Thur)
7:00 p.m.	Thursday Night Bible Study
9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Worship
6:00 p.m.	2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday Night Service

Please visit us at our website:
www.fcfjapan.org



Pastor James A. Jr.
Monica Saffold



"Parking available on base near Fussa Gate for DoD ID Card holders"
Parking for all other visitors will be made available at the church



HONG KONG

Win Air Tickets!

Just one of the many benefits
for Japan & Okinawa Stripes Club Members

SIGN UP HERE

www.stripes.com

Stripes Club

KudosBenefits

JAPAN & OKINAWA DEPARTURE

The competition is open to DOD ID Card holders with APO or FPO addresses. Employees and/or family members of Stars and Stripes or the contest's sponsors are not eligible to participate. You must be 18 years or older to participate and win. Go to www.StripesClub.com for other terms and conditions.



Christian Ministries Far East

Pastor Charles A. Hall

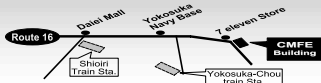


"...where the SPIRIT of the
LORD is, there is LIBERTY."
2 Corinthians 3:17

CMFE Weekly Schedule:

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00am & 6:30pm
Wednesday Christian Studies Class - 6:30pm
Friday Prayer & Evangelistic Service - 6:30pm

Directions: After passing 7-Eleven, on your left, CMFE is located on the next block (on the corner).



Legislators may cook up a way to grade kids' BMI

BY MICHAEL HILL

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Kids' report cards could include reading, writing and weigh-ins, if a state lawmaker gets his way.

A bill being introduced by Assemblyman Felix Ortiz would require schools to annually provide parents information on their child's weight along with their grades. The brief health reports, which could also be sent along side report cards, would show where kids stand relative to others on the body-mass index, or BMI, a height-to-weight ratio used to define underweight, overweight or obese people.

Ortiz — who has carved a niche for himself as a legislative fat fighter with proposals like taxing junk food — claims the expanded report card would spotlight potential health problems parents might overlook.

"I don't believe we should continue to take things for granted," said the Brooklyn Democrat. "I don't believe we should continue to say 'Well, parents should know.'"

The proposal comes as public officials around the nation explore creative ways to deal with the alarming trend in childhood obesity.

Nine million school children nationwide are overweight, three

times the number in 1980, according to one recent study. Health care professionals generally blame the increase on junk food, excessive TV watching and the decline of the sit-down family meal.

Statehouses have cooked up a bunch of programs and legislative proposals designed to raise weight consciousness. The New York BMI proposal is similar to a 2003 Arkansas law which resulted in the release of the first annual BMI reports to parents last June. A Texas lawmaker introduced a separate BMI measure this month.

California banned soft drink sales at elementary and junior



Fourth-grader Kane Cameron, right, takes his lunch at Waterfront School in Buffalo, N.Y. A bill being introduced by Assemblyman Felix Ortiz would require schools to annually provide parents information on their child's weight along with their grades.

high schools and some 20 states restrict students' access to junk food until after lunch. In New York, Gov. George Pataki has enlisted former Olympic swimmer Janet Evans and Philadelphia Flyers goalie Robert Esche to help promote the state's "Active-8 Kids" healthy lifestyle campaign.

Michael F. Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, said statehouses and city halls can be more receptive to health-promoting legislation than Congress, which is heavily lobbied by food industries.

Though state and city programs lack the far reach of federal campaigns, Jacobson said they can still help. "There are 100 different

things that contribute to obesity," he said, "and it will take a 100 different programs and publicity campaigns to really have an impact."

Ortiz (whose BMI places him in the "normal weight" zone) said he will use his connections as president-elect of the National Caucus of Hispanic State Legislators to help get the BMI bill introduced in a handful of other states. Weigh-ins could be done by any qualified school employee.

Ortiz said he also intends to keep pushing for a bill that would tax junk food, video games and television commercials to pay for an obesity prevention program. He also has introduced bills that would make fast-food chains post calorie counts and boost physical education in schools.



YOU'RE THE EXPERT ON

COMBAT

WE'RE THE EXPERT ON CAR INSURANCE.

Low monthly payment plan.

Local claim service in English.

Immediate registration/drive today.

GEICO

CALL OR VISIT US FOR A FREE RATE QUOTE.

CALL GEICO STATESIDE,
TOLL-FREE FROM:

AZORES 800811042
BELGIUM 080276070
GERMANY 08008081300
GREECE 80011423038
ITALY 800877424
JAPAN KDD 001-80080413000
TELECOM 0041-80080413000
IDC 0061-80080413000

KOREA 001-800808413000
KTA 002-800808413000
SPAIN 900-891070
TURKEY 80013424038
U.K. 08006969874

GEICO OVERSEAS OFFICES:

AZORES 295-513467
BELGIUM 005-728533
Shiga

GERMANY
Rama 06181-9690310
Kaiserlautern 0631-54066
Other Germany areas, toll-free 0800100687
GREECE 02821-021494
Athens 0434-660118
Dorby 050-547553
La Maddalena 0789-370101

Naples 081-8110568
Sigmella 095-7130182
Vicenza 0444-504366
SPAIN 956-811616
UNITED KINGDOM
Lakenhead 01638-533400
Menwith Hill 01423-563575
Midsalland 01683-715167
Other U.K. areas, toll-free 0800-815824

Education board nixes FSU chiropractic school

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON

The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida's higher education board on Thursday killed a proposed chiropractic school at Florida State University, with some members saying lawmakers were wrong to go forward with the plan without getting the support of the faculty.

The 10-3 vote by the Board of Governors ended one of Florida State's biggest academic furors, with more than 500 professors opposing what would have been the first chiropractic school ever attached to a major American university. Some even threatened to resign rather than teach alongside what they consider a "pseudoscience."

"No program should go forward without full faculty support," said board member Dreamal Worthen, who echoed others in sidestepping science to focus on the flawed proposal.

Usually, faculty members study the idea of a new program, get it approved by its university board of trustees and then go to lawmakers for funding. In this case, the school was a pet project of then Senate President Jim King, who helped pass a state budget with \$9 million in startup funds for the school. Gov. Jeb Bush was not an outspoken supporter, but he signed off on the proposal.

"The Board of Governors clearly had the legal authority to do that," Bush said after learning of

the board's decision. Bush said he was not surprised because the university didn't push for it, adding he had "hoped that FSU would have taken a position."

Board of Governors Chairman Carolyn Roberts said the vote had nothing to do with the merits of the profession.

Florida State President T.K. Wetherell told the board he didn't bring anyone to the meeting to speak for or against the proposal because he wanted the board's guidance before moving forward.

Afterward, he said he would have liked to have seen the school open, but doesn't plan to continue to push for it.

It was also frustrating for the chiropractic profession, which had envisioned the high-profile school as a key part of a becoming part of mainstream medicine.

"The decision was being made for all the wrong reasons," said Jack Hebert, a lobbyist for the Florida Chiropractic Association.

"It wasn't about patients or improving health care or providing good health care for the citizens of this state. It became a process debate."

Chiropractic, which focuses on manipulating the spine to lessen back pain and improve overall health, has won wider acceptance over the years, as evidenced by its coverage in most health insurance plans. Chiropractors usually receive about four to five years of training in classrooms, laboratories and clinics.

Relient K's songs offer plenty to ponder

BY BRIAN BOWERS

Stars and Stripes

Relient K has grown up.

On its first few CDs, the pop-punk band offered a light-hearted look at life and relationships. The discs were filled with witty, off-kilter observations and lyrics. The music often bounced closer to pop than punk.

But on the band's fourth full-length disc, "MMHMM," frontman and singer Matt Thiessen offers deeper insights and edgier music. The wit is still there but the songs offer more to ponder than a few clever phrases. And the straight-forward guitars and pounding drums place the disc more firmly in the punk category.

Today's praise

"Be My Escape," which currently rides atop R&R's Christian rock radio chart, typifies the disc, flowing from assertive guitar work to an acoustic finale while discussing doubt, insecurity and grace. "I So Hate Consequences" is one of the strongest songs of the disc, exploring mistakes and pleading for God's help.

The punk beat pushes its way forward in "The Only Thing Worse Than Beating a Dead Horse Is Betting On One" — about truth — and "Which To Bury, Us Or The Hatchet" — about a failed relationship. The "old" Relient K is most evident in "My



Photo courtesy: Godee Records

The pop-punk band Relient K is, from left, Matt Thiessen, Matt Hoopes and Dave Douglas.

Girl's Ex-Boyfriend," which offers the view that "if it wasn't for him, he would be able to see that, if it wasn't for him, he'd be as happy as me."

A mellower tone emerges in a few songs, such as "Let It All Out," which delves into

the complex nature of pain, and "When I Go Down, which ends the disc with reflections on turning to God amid failure.

Like the band's previous discs, "MMHMM" has a lot of say about relationships — with friends, girlfriends/boyfriends and God — but the level of the discussion has matured significantly.

On the Web: www.relientk.com

Contemporary Christian artists are usually quick to offer support and thanks to U.S. troops serving overseas. Sometimes the thoughts find their way back again.

In Iraq, Staff Sgt. Blake Fletcher is commander of a security truck for the 256th Brigade Combat Team, part of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Fletcher recently wrote to members of the worship group Phillips, Craig and Dean about "how much your music has blessed me and has helped keep me in the right spirit." The staff sergeant agreed to let the message appear here after it was brought to Stripes' attention.

On Dec. 16, Fletcher and his crew were called to the tactical operations center, where he learned that an improvised explosive device had hit a Humvee, killing a young lieutenant and wounding the rest of the crew. Fletcher's job was to escort unit leadership to the hospital.

While at the hospital, Fletcher led a prayer for the group of visitors. But on the

way back to his forward operating base, he was overwhelmed by thoughts of what Christmas would be like for the family of the fallen lieutenant and for his own family.

Feeling depressed, he knew he had to pray again.

"I laid on my bunk and put on your CD, 'Let the Worshipers Arise.' As I played it, the first song came on, 'I Am A Friend of God.' That spirit of depression and fear left



Fletcher

me in an instant and I went to sleep with a smile on my face and joy in my heart. It was probably one of my best nights of rest in a long time.

"I have seen things that no man should have to, but that is our calling on the battlefield. I have called Jesus' name many times over here. There is just something about that name that gives power, peace and direction. ... I wanted you to know how your music has blessed my life."

On the Web: www.phillipsandcraiganddean.com

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: bowers@stripes.osd.mil

Nigerian cardinal picks his words carefully

When he speaks, it's of sacrifice, God's help — not papal succession

BY JEFFREY WEISS

The Dallas Morning News

Cardinal Francis Arinze was the Vatican's point man for interreligious outreach for 18 years. Yet, he is famously reluctant to be interviewed.

That's said to be tied partly to his impatience with secular reporters who badger him about his chances of ascending to the papacy.

The 72-year-old Nigerian-born cardinal is on a short list of candidates to succeed John Paul II.

The cardinal learned a small crowd in Dallas recently with his acceptance speech for an award he got for his interfaith work.

God, he said, deserves the credit for anything he's achieved as a cleric.

"When you praise a suit well-made, you are praising the tailor," he said with a smile. "Not the wood that the suit is put on in the tailor shop."

After his speech, he reluctantly but thoughtfully answered a few questions from The Dallas Morning News.

In 2002, after serving as the head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, he was named the head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Sacraments. That shifted his focus from what may be the Vatican's strongest outreach program to the most sacred internal workings of the Catholic Church.

It also places him near the top of the Vatican hierarchy.

He was in Dallas for a conference on Catholic liturgy. He received his award on the same day news broke about a Catholic archbishop being kidnapped in Iraq. The cleric's release the next day scarcely lessens the danger that religious leaders face in many parts of the world.

There is no easy advice the Vatican can offer its clergy, Cardinal Arinze said.

"We cannot solve violence with violence. We have to try to solve hatred with love," he said.

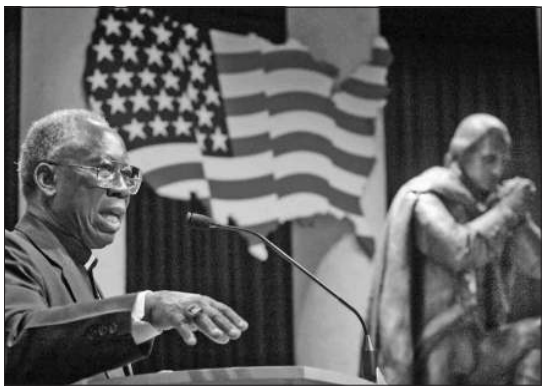
"If we try to pay hatred back with hatred, that will not be a good solution. ... I know this is easy to say, difficult to do. As Christians, this is what Christ taught us," he said.

"Easy to say, difficult to do — but not impossible. With God's help. I must add that: with God's help."

His two decades of interfaith work spanned a time when some chasms seemed to close while others grew larger. Cardinal Arinze suggested that the bridge builders are not as much attention as the bridge destroyers.

"There are many people sacrificing themselves for others. Often they do not catch the headlines. One evil action catches the headlines," he said.

But occasionally, the headlines mention people like Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta — occasionally. Such people remind



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/PT

Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, a senior cardinal at the Vatican in Italy, was presented the Thanks-Giving Distinguished World Achievement Award at a ceremony in Dallas earlier this month.

us that there is hope."

Despite the internal focus of his current job, Cardinal Arinze thrust himself into last year's American presidential campaign when he issued a statement from the Vatican saying Catholic politicians who unambiguously support abortion are "not fit" to receive Communion.

Democratic candidate John Kerry, a Catholic, had said that

he was personally opposed to abortion but supported the legal right of a woman to obtain one.

Someone who publicly embraces a particular faith has an obligation to live in accord with that faith, the cardinal said.

"A person should be clear on what that person's religion teaches ... and make an effort to live it," he said.

"It demands sacrifice. But

every student or ... athlete who wants to win in the Olympic Games knows that sacrifice is necessary if you want a good result."

Finally, the cardinal addressed the health of Pope John Paul II, now 84 and suffering visibly from Parkinson's disease.

"He is well," the cardinal said. "He is not a teenager. He cannot do skiing now. But he is well. He is calm, and he does his work in faith and love."

Sunday Horoscope

Ask not what the body of human knowledge can do for you; ask what you can do for the body of human knowledge.

A day spent dreaming, scheming and inventing is a day well spent while Mercury transits through Aquarius. Contributing to the intellectual fabric of society starts by solving the simple problems in your own life.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 30). This is your year to be kind to yourself. It makes no sense to sweat grueling hours and sacrifice until it hurts your soul. You should be praising instead of punishing yourself. Keep track of all you give through the next 12 weeks. Your building self-esteem is noticed by new friends and a love interest. Lucky love signs are Virgo and Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Do what must to feed your romantic life. This should feel more like fun than work, but either way, it's important to just do it. When you're not expecting a response, you'll get the best one ever.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's still more studying to do, but what you already know will begin to pay off in some way, too. You'll be asked to give a repeat performance. If you do, you shine even brighter than before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Work will call to you, but don't answer that call — you need your rest more. Keep understanding loved ones close by. A low-key fun life will be restorative. Laughter is your spiritual retreat.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Powerful people surround you, but unless you can connect with them mentally and emotionally, you won't be able to tap into their mojo. So make an effort to get on the same wavelength with your fellow man.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your approach to getting your life together includes so much visual thinking, you may as well be rolling Aladdin's lamp in hopes that a genie will pop out. Lucky for you.

History bound in 'red tape'
I have often heard people complain about things not getting accomplished due to too much bureaucratic "red tape." Please provide the origin of this old phrase.
The term "red tape" has indeed been around for some time, appearing in print many times over the last 300 years. But it did not always refer to excessively complex official procedures that caused delay or inaction. In fact, "red tape" originally referred to the red, ribbon-like strips of material formerly used in England to bind up documents.
This official use of red tape is mentioned several times in English and American literature. But even as "red tape" was being

magic does really happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). See the positive side of self-indulgence. Cravings or obsessive thought patterns are a sign that a basic need has yet to be met. If you satisfy the need, your symptoms finally abate, and you can get back to giving.

Holiday Mathis



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The list of things that must be done today is endless. If you really took the time to write it out and look at it, you might be paralyzed in a state of wondering what to do first. So wing it for a few hours before you make a formal plan.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The creative well is dry. You need inspiration as much as you need food and air. Go into the world in the form of a sponge ready to soak up any entertainment, intellectual stimulation and artistry you encounter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're on a cosmic timeout — not so much a punishment as an invitation to reflect on the events of last week. Regrets? You have a few, then again, too few to mention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your body has something to tell you and could be retelling from a bad habit of yours. Don't punish yourself; just make new choices. It's easier to tame the monster while the monster is still small.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Style, glamour and aesthetics are of interest. You are looking for something fresh as you hone the way you present yourself to the world. Cut out pictures of people who exude the kind of success you'd like to have.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Try to get more supporters for your pet cause. A phone drive, an e-mail list or a contest of some sort helps you make a splash. Avoid friction between friends. — it's just not worth it.

Creators Syndicate

Cheapskate husband won't stop complaining about money

Dear Abby: I love my husband, "Harvey," very much, but he is tight with money. I am not a spendthrift, and we pay our bills on time and have no large debts.

Every time we buy something, Harvey feels the need to comment about how much we're spending. This includes eating out — which we do infrequently. I have walked out of more than one restaurant when Harvey started complaining about the prices. I tell him it takes the enjoyment out of an otherwise pleasant experience, but he doesn't seem to get it. He says he likes to complain and that I should ignore it.

We have an anniversary coming up, and I know Harvey will want to take me out to dinner, but I can't look forward to it because I know what will happen, and I won't have a good time. What should I do?

—Wants to Eat in Peace in Maine

Dear Wants to Eat in Peace: Remind your frugal husband in advance that your anniversary is a special day, and you don't want the evening ruined by his complaining about the cost of the dinner. When your special day arrives and you're leaving for the

restaurant, tell him sweetly that if he complains about the expense, he'll be sleeping in the doghouse.

Dear Abby: I am (not by choice) the single mother of a beautiful 19-month-old daughter I'll call Jenny.

Jenny's father, "John," died in a car accident less than a year ago. His best friend, "Paul," arranged a benefit with the proceeds to go to Jenny. That was last July. Jenny has yet to receive a dime of this money.

Paul never told me the exact amount that was raised, and he still has the money. I spend a lot of time with them, but I'm scared to ask. Paul and his wife are facing some big expenses, so I'm afraid they might "borrow" Jenny's money. All of it was donated by family, friends and the people I work for.

I asked Paul's wife about it the other day, and she said she would get back to me, but the expression on her face was unsettling. I'm afraid they're going to use my daughter's money to cover their expenses. I really want to get it out of their hands and put it in Jenny's trust account. How can I keep the peace and still get what is due my

daughter?

—Hopeful in Ohio

Dear Hopeful: That may not be possible; however, your daughter's future is more important than a potential argument. If the money that was raised for your daughter has been diverted, it may be considered fraud and embezzlement. For Jenny's sake, please consult a lawyer and have the lawyer get the money plus an accounting.

Dear Abby: My boyfriend is obsessed with large breasts and constantly "hints" that I should enlarge my 34Cs.

Lately he has been coming home late and telling me that he's been working overtime, when I know for a fact that he's been hanging out with his ex-girlfriend, a stripper with 38DDs. I love my boyfriend and don't want to lose him, but I'm not sure about enlargement. If it's the only way I can get him away from me, I guess I'll do it. What do you think, Abby?

—Not Busty Enough in Philly

Dear Not Enough: Rather than enlarging your breasts to satisfy his obsession, you'd better served to enlarge your circle of boyfriends.

Letters for this column — with your name and address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.pittsburgh.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Counseling best option for mother of criminal daughter

Dear Annie: This past summer, my 19-year-old daughter, "Joy," was arrested for murder. There is no question that she did it.

Four years ago, Joy moved out of my house and went to live with her boyfriend. She had been with those four years, Joy quit school, was in and out of trouble, and became pregnant.

After her pregnancy, we had custody of our 3-year-old granddaughter, and I must say, that was a wonderful job raising her.

Even though Joy always was a handful, we did our best to bring her up right and sought professional help all along the way. It just never did any good. I'm trying to come to terms with what my daughter has done, but I can't find any support groups for parents whose children have committed heinous crimes. There are lots of victims' groups, but none that address the grief and despair of the families of the perpetrators.

What do I say when people ask me how my daughter is doing?

Dear Anne: Society is quick to blame the parents when a child commits a crime, even when the parents have done everything possible to provide a loving, decent home life. You do not have to convey any information

about Joy's current status unless you want to. You need only say, "Joy is fine, thanks."

No matter what your child has done, we know you still love her. We are not aware of any support group, but counseling is always a good idea when faced with such anguish. Ask your doctor or clergyman to refer you to someone.

Dear Annie: My mother raised five children by herself and used to cooking in huge volumes. We eat dinner at her home once a week, and she always cooks two or three times more than what we actually need, and then saddles us with the leftovers.

My mother won't need this extra food. Mom is from the old country and thinks that the way others view her cooking is a reflection on her. If we told her not to give us the leftovers, she would be deeply offended. I don't know her kindness, but I don't know what to do. Your opinion?

—Sick of the Leftovers

Dear Leftovers: If you cannot tell Mom that you won't eat the leftovers, simply thank her and then take her home everything possible to provide a loving, decent home life. You do not have to convey any information

pass any homeless people on the street, they surely would be thrilled to receive such a meal.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter about a couple who planned a vacation with friends, but the wife is complaining on her daughter's 10th birthday, even though the girl had a party the weekend before. Dad said the daughter is "not coming with us for going on this trip without her."

This girl is a spoiled brat. How many dollars did those parents lavish on this girl in an attempt to pacify her? You suggested they join their friends on vacation the following day. I say "balm!" I believe a little old hairbrush in the right spot might help out there. That man should tell his daughter to stop visiting his wife's house. He'll go no further. I have been married for 63 years and would never put up with that.


—Wisconsin

Dear Wisconsin: Our advice wasn't intended to placate the daughter. It was intended to alleviate the mother's anxiety. If leaving one day later solves the problem, it seems more sensible than telling Dad to stop his weight around. But thank you for your opinion.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime contributors to Dear Abby. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailboxmedia.com, or to Kathy Mitchell, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Dear Abby





I am attending UMUC because
they've been **serving** the military
for more than 50 years.

Since 1947, University of Maryland University College has been praised by U.S. presidents for bringing flexible, high-quality programs to the armed forces around the world. In that time, more than 1.5 million servicemembers, including flag officers, have pursued their degree or certificate at UMUC. Join UMUC today and be a part of a long-standing military education tradition.

ASK YOUR ESO OR FIELD REP ABOUT:

- ★ Which of our more than 120 undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs is right for you.
- ★ How you can earn credit towards your degree based on your military training.
- ★ How our military tuition rate, scholarships, and financial aid make UMUC affordable.
- ★ How UMUC's global presence means you never again need worry about transferring credits.



University of Maryland University College

www.umuc.edu/military

'Old School' party

NC DURHAM — In what police say was an homage to the movie "Old School," partying Duke University students were found in a fraternity house basement with an inflatable pool, a whole lot of baby oil and women in bikinis.

Police came upon the scene early Sunday after responding to a noise complaint.

Officers said they cleared the house of the 200 revelers, sending some of the women home in the subfreezing temperatures in nothing more than the bikinis they wore.

Dorm fire remembered

NJ SOUTH ORANGE — Relatives of people killed in a Seton Hall dormitory fire in 2000 gathered to gather on campus Wednesday to mark the fifth anniversary of the blaze that left three freshmen dead. Two students were indicted in June 2003 on murder and arson charges and are free on bail pending trial. They have maintained their innocence.

Prairie dog not a pest

SD PIERRE — A legislative committee killed a bill to designate the black-tailed prairie dog as a state pest after game officials said the measure could wreck their efforts to control the critters. The legislation could lead environmental groups to renew efforts to have the animal designated as endangered, officials said. That could interfere with ongoing state programs.

Poor park programs

CA FRESNO — Thousands of California students are turned away from national park education programs each year because of insufficient funding and staff reductions, according to a study.

The report released Wednesday by the National Parks Conservation Association examined education programs at 11 of California's 24 national parks. It found that more than 80,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade participate in the programs each year, or 1 percent of the state's 7 million public and private school students.

"Part of providing a high-quality education to our children is ensuring access to the unique learning opportunities in our national parks," said Deborah DeMeo, the association's California desert field representative.

Drug testing for officials

NM SANTA FE — A lawmaker wants New Mexico to require yearly random drug testing of all its elected officials, from school board members to U.S. senators, with results posted on the Internet.

"I think we need to remember that we are public servants," Republican state Sen. Steve Komadina said Tuesday.

His bill was prompted by last year's drug-related arrests of a



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

prominent New Mexico judge and a public utilities commissioner.

Tim Storey, a senior fellow at the National Conference of State Legislatures, said he knew of no other state that requires such testing.

Poisoning of family

WI PORTAGE — A teenager put mouse poison into his family's food for five weeks before his stepfather discovered the pellets in some coffee grounds, according to a criminal complaint.

The 15-year-old was charged with three counts of attempted first-degree intentional homicide. A judge set bail at \$25,000 cash Wednesday.

When interviewed by police at school, the teen said he put poison in juice, milk, spaghetti, coffee and meat, according to the complaint. The boy told investigators that he did not want to kill his family, but wanted to make them sick because he was mad at them.

Walls must come down

VT JERICHO — A judge has ordered a Jericho man to tear down a house to restore a natural bird habitat in a wetland.

Larry Westall built the three-story, 30-foot-high house a



Hooded horse

Yep is dressed for the weather as she enjoys a bite of hay near Fairfield, Fla. The 3-year-old, whose formal name is Yep-Sho-Nut-Wil, seems to enjoy the cold weather that she woke up to on the Jenkin Just Right Thoroughbreds farm.

decade ago off Browns Trace Road in wetlands deemed important for migratory birds. Superior Court Judge Richard Norton recently upheld a state order that the house come down by June 1 because it doesn't comply with state wetland rules.

State officials were unaware of any previous case of a house being built in a Vermont wetland. In this case, the Class II wetland has a 50-foot protective buffer because it is considered significant.

The house has not been occupied because of problems Westall encountered in obtaining permits, officials said.

Shooting out windows

LA GRETNA — Six teenagers were accused of shooting out the windows of at least 242 vehicles in the New Orleans area, leaving behind at least \$100,000 in damage. They fired pellet guns while riding in a pickup truck, according to police. Authorities said the teens were arrested after a home surveillance camera caught them in action.

Roosters in the ring?

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — With cockfighting now banned in Oklahoma, one legislator is proposing a blood-free alternative: fitting roosters with little boxing gloves and letting them slug it out.

"Who's going to object to chickens fighting like humans do? Everybody wins," said Democratic state Sen. Frank Shurden, a protector of the gamefowl industry and a long-time defender of cockfighting, in which birds are fitted with razor-like spurs and often battle to the death.

Oklahoma voters banned cockfighting in 2002. The practice is still legal in Louisiana and New Mexico.

Life for serial rapists

MT HELENA — The Montana Supreme Court upheld a law requiring serial rapists to spend the rest of their lives in prison. The court said the law isn't unconstitutional because it's based on protecting society and discouraging repeated offenses. The decision upheld Charles Webb's life sentence for raping a woman in 2002, four months after he was released from prison for a 1995 rape.

Smokers: You're fired

MI LANSING — Four employees of a health care company have been fired for refusing to take a test to determine whether they smoke cigarettes.

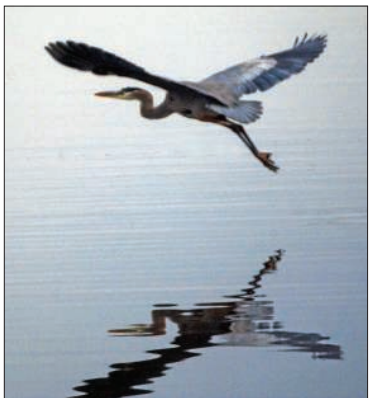
Weyco Inc., a health benefits administrator based in Okemos, Mich., adopted a policy Jan. 1 that allows employees to be fired if they smoke, even if the smoking happens after business hours or at home.

Company founder Howard Weyers has said the anti-smoking rule was designed to shield the firm from high health care costs. "I don't want to pay for the results of smoking," he said.



Watch out!

Richard Zaleski clears snow from his porch roof in Syracuse, N.Y.



Taking to the air
in Beaufort, N.C.

A great grey heron flies off after snacking on fish along Taylors Creek



The braiding bunch Diana Boyles, 6, center, reacts to an educational video as she braids the hair of Sydney Hodges, 8, right, as her own hair is braided by Aubrey Scott, 7, left, at Valley Christian Academy in Roswell, N.M.



Cleaning up is fun A cleanup by the Almaraz family across from their home in Kansas City, Kan., netted old tires and several bags of trash. From left, Michael, 12; Bethany, 7; and Stephen, 6, chased one of the tires as they took it to the trash pile.



Trying to stay dry Raymond Frias took cover beneath his umbrella as he made his way through San Jacinto Plaza in El Paso, Texas.



In the hot seat Firefighters from five area fire departments responded to the blaze at the Old Hickory Furniture Company in Martinsville, Ind., where fire crews were handicapped in spraying water on the east side of the building because of high voltage lines.

Forced retirement

MD BALTIMORE — The Police Department is forcing 160 injured officers to retire after doctors determined they will never be fit for full duty. It's intended as a money-saving move that will allow the hiring of more patrol officers. The police union argues the department is casting off valuable employees.

Proof of citizenship

AZ PHOENIX — Arizona has become the first state to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote, a measure that supporters say is intended to prevent voter fraud.

The law went into effect Tuesday after being approved by voters in November. It requires that people provide proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, when registering to vote and show specified forms of identification when casting a ballot at a polling place.

A civil-rights group and Democratic legislators recently had urged the Department of Justice to reject the law. They argued the changes will erect barriers that will hinder minorities' participation in elections.

Proposed living wage

DC WASHINGTON — Public contractors would be required to pay their employees a "living wage" under a proposal introduced in the City Council. Member David Catania wants the rate to be at least \$10.50 an hour. Contracts under \$50,000 and contractors with fewer than 10 employees would be exempt.

Erosion in Great Lakes

MI TRAVERSE CITY — Lake Huron and Lake Michigan are losing vast amounts of water because of erosion from a decades-old dredging project, according to a new study.

The lakes, connected geologically, saw levels drop when a commercial navigation channel was dug at the bottom of the St. Clair River in 1962, boosting the flow south toward Lake Erie.

According to the report, riverbed erosion has contributed to a decline of 8 to 13 inches in the Huron-Michigan water level.

Several environmental organizations said the report illustrates the unintended consequences of dredging, sand mining, shoreline alteration.

Meth-use rate soaring

SD PIERRE — Healthcare advocates told legislators that methamphetamine use has skyrocketed in South Dakota. About 69 state residents per 100,000 were admitted for meth treatment in 2002, up from four per 100,000 a decade earlier, said Karen Larson, deputy director of the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas.

Outdoor smoking ban

CA SAN FRANCISCO — City officials voted Tuesday to ban smoking in all parks, public squares and many other outdoor

spaces owned by the city.

In an 8-3 vote, the Board of Supervisors agreed that the health and environmental risks associated with discarded cigarette butts and secondhand smoke merited bans for outdoor spaces.

Violators could be fined up to \$100 on first offense, \$200 for a second violation and \$500 for each additional violation.

Treatment for gamblers

LA BATON ROUGE — District attorneys from six parishes have signed on to a new program that puts those who commit nonviolent crimes because of a gambling addiction into treatment instead of prison. The program is funded through the Department of Health and Hospitals' Office for Addictive Disorders, Consequences and Problem Gambling Fund, which receives revenue from the gambling industry.

Tax glitch fixed

MA BOSTON — Early birds trying to file their tax returns electronically by phone found themselves asked to pay double their taxes for double their salary. The computer problem was fixed, state officials said, and the system is up and running again.

Bad online scores

CO DENVER — Students from kindergarten to 12th grade who take online courses in Colorado are performing worse than statewide averages, according to a state report.

Online students were forced to repeat grades four times more often than the statewide average last year, and a higher percentage were rated "unsatisfactory" on standardized math tests, according to Colorado Department of Education figures.

Online school operators defended their programs, saying they draw a high number of students who failed in traditional schools.

Restoration approved

HI LIHUE — The Kauai Planning Commission approved a \$200 million restoration of the famed Coco Palms Resort. Developer Richard Weiser said he plans to restore the hotel, closed since 1992, to the look it had in the 1950s and 1960s. The resort was used as a set in the 1961 Elvis Presley movie "Blue Hawaii."

Building drug bust

NH ROCHESTER — Police are investigating drug activity at an Academy Street apartment house and arrested five people this weekend.

Two people living in one of the apartments were arrested along with a third person visiting the home. Two others were arrested as they left the building. Three of those arrested face drug-related charges. Two were arrested on warrants stemming from other cases.

Police said they recovered an undisclosed quantity of prescription painkillers and drug paraphernalia.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

STARS AND STRIPES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. NELSON, Publisher
JOHN D. PANASIEWICZ, General Manager, Pacific
LT. COL. DANIEL R. TODD, USAF, Commander

News and Editorial

DAVID MACZARZELLA, Editorial Director
DOUG CLAWSON, Managing Editor
ROBERT GRIFFATTA, Associate Editor
BROOKS E. BOWERS, Opinion Editor, Pacific
JOE GROHELSKI, Electronic Editor
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS:
Chris Carlson, News Peter Phillips, Photo/Graphics
Brian Brown, Features T.D. Pacific

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: #317 Roppongi, 7-chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106, Japan
FAX: DSN 225-3132; ext. (41) 230-8436
E-MAIL: Marketing@letters@pspsites.com
Advertising: advertising@pspsites.com
Marketing: marketing@pspsites.com
Circulation: circulation@pspsites.com
CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington
DC 20045-1301. Phone DSN 312-763-0900 or (41) 232-7611-0900, fax (41) 232-7611-0900
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Maczarella, 529 14th St. NW, Suite
350, Washington, DC 20045-1301. Phone DSN 312-763-0900 or (41) 232-7611-0900, fax (41) 232-7611-0900
E-mail: maczarella@pspsites.com
OMBUDSMAN: Joe Ungaro, Send comments to Ombudsman, Stars
and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301. Phone civilian (+1) (41) 364-6032; ext. (+1) (41) 364-8696; or e-mail: ombudsman@starsandstripes.com

How to call us

GENERAL MANAGER: DSN 225-3132; ext. (+81) (3) 3404-9428
TELEPHONE: DSN 225-3136; ext. (+81) (3) 3404-9442/3; e-mail: letters@pspsites.com
SPORTS: Dave Omlund, DSN 645-7433; ext. (+81) (88) 853-2702; e-mail: omlund@pspsites.com
For business, advertising and circulation numbers, turn to the classified section.

News Bureaus

JAPAN Bureau Chief: Sid Acker, Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002; tel. DSN 225-3357; ext. (41) 3404-9442/3; fax DSN 225-3271; ext. (+81) (3) 3404-9438-9389; e-mail: saack@pspsites.com
MISAWA: Jennifer H. Swan, tel. DSN 225-2550; ext. (0176) 53-5181; ext. (225-2550) (01) 317-46-2550; fax DSN 225-2550; e-mail: jhswan@pspsites.com
Sasebo/Hakata: Greg Tyler, FSC ATE, Box 1126, POF 96322-1126; tel. DSN 225-3832; e-mail: gregtyler@pspsites.com
Tokyo/Yokosuka/Asaga: Juliana Gitter and Hansa Kusumoto, tel. DSN 225-3100; ext. (41) 3404-9442/3; fax DSN 225-3100; e-mail: jgitter@pspsites.com
Tokyo/Yokosuka/Asaga: Vince Little, Unit 5058 APO 96328-5058; tel. DSN 225-9233; ext. (04) 2552-2111; ext. 52933 fax DA 225-7752; e-mail: vlittle@pspsites.com
Okinawa: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chiyomi Simoda and Erin Skavin, Camp Foster, Unit 33517, POF 96374; tel. DSN 645-9807 or (41) 364-8933-2702; fax DSN 645-9165; e-mail: okidbureau@pspsites.com

KOREA

Korea Bureau Chief: Joseph Gordenio, Unit 15334, APO 96205-0423; tel. DSN 721-7132; ext. (+82) (2) 2270-5334; e-mail: jgordenio@pspsites.com
Camp Red Cloud/Camp Casey, South Robson, Address: Stars and Stripes, c/o HRC 2D P400, Unit 15041, APO 96208-0289; tel. civ. (41) 990-7134; e-mail: koreabureau@pspsites.com
Oan Air Base/Camp Humphreys, Franklin Fisher, Unit 15334, APO 96278, tel. DSN 718-7251 or ext. (+82) (3) 214-5234; fax DSN 718-7252; e-mail: koreabureau@pspsites.com
Seoul: Teri Weaver and Hwang He-ryun, Unit 15334, APO 96205-0423; tel. DSN 721-7131, 721-7132 or 721-7134; (+82) (2) 2270-7132/7134; fax DSN 721-7134; (+82) (2) 2270-7132/7134; fax DSN 721-7141; e-mail: koreabureau@pspsites.com
Tagae: Unit 15334, APO 96205-0423; tel. DSN 721-7131, 721-7132 or 721-7134; (+82) (2) 2270-7132/7134; fax DSN 721-7133; (+82) (2) 2270-7132/7134; fax DSN 721-7133; e-mail: koreabureau@pspsites.com

WASHINGTON DC

Bureau editor: Patricia Doherty, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel. (+1) (202) 761-8859; e-mail: pdoher@pspsites.com
Lisa Burgess, tel. (+1) (703) 692-1875; fax Anderson, tel. (+1) (703) 692-1875; fax Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002.

© European and Pacific Stars and Stripes 2004

Stars and Stripes USPS 495 1-100 is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents per day and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes Central Office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002.

This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of Defense for members of the Military Services overseas. However, the contents of the STARS and STRIPES are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or the U.S. Pacific Command. As a 100 newspaper, the STARS and STRIPES may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote and isolated locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.
No appearance of advertisement in this publication, including notices or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense in the STARS and STRIPES of the products or services advertised.
Products or services advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or purchase without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: www.strips.com

Politics drives retired brass?

I seemed to have read the letter "Gonzales not right fit for Glis" (Jan. 25) in other newspapers and online in the past couple of weeks, which makes me wonder why retired Marine Brig. Gen. David Brahms and several other [retired] generals and admirals wrote to Stars and Stripes. They appear to have some valid concerns. However, more questions come up in my mind as to why the writers believe the way they do.

In my time in the Marine Corps I served in artillery, infantry and tank battalions, and as an aide to a two-star general. Other than the aide is the confidant to the general, and you hear some interesting ideas dealing with war, politics and personal goals. My assessment is that, when the eagles come off and the stars go on, the politician arises in the general. So here are some of the questions I have for the writers:

■ Are enemy combatants without uniforms, murdering indigenous people and soldiers, not representing an anarchist country, and thus not covered by the Geneva Conventions?

■ Have you all served in combat situations and/or units where the moral character has to decide what to do for accomplishment of the mission, and the troops' welfare? Some of you have, some of you haven't, based on resumes I have seen online.

■ By having a group of you sign this letter, would you say you are speaking for the majority or a select few retired generals?

■ Could it be that you are motivated to write by your political affiliations? What political parties have you voted for in the past?

■ I'm only a fifth-grade Department of Defense Dependents Schools teacher, who is a retired Marine officer, so please help me on this one: In my summary/conclusion it appears you are addressing senators. If so why write to Stars and Stripes? Why not instead write an encouraging letter to the men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq to have the moral courage to do what is right despite what oftentimes can be what some may feel are gray situations? I'm sure they would appreciate retired generals thinking of them, and encouraging them to do the right thing — whether doing patrols in Fallujah or guarding prisoners in detention centers.

James Clark

Buttzbach, Germany

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorial and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

Send your letters to:

U.S. MAIL: International mail:
Readers' Forum Stars and Stripes
Unit 45002
APO 96337-5002 Tokyo 106-0032

Via fax from Japan: (3) 3408-8936;

DSN 225-3271

Via fax from outside Japan:

Country code (+81) 3-3408-8936;

DSN 225-3271

E-mail: letters@pspsites.com

Lawsuit addresses higher-ups

In "Where were prison supervisors?" (Jan. 24), the letter writer questioned how it was possible for a junior enlisted reservist to be solely responsible for crimes committed at Abu Ghraib prison.

He wondered if there would be "any senior-level personnel in positions of responsibility courts-martialed and serving sentences," or whether the U.S. government would accept the explanation of "I wasn't aware of these actions under my command."

The New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights had the same concern. Last month the center and Berlin's Republican Lawyers' Association filed a complaint with the federal German prosecutor's office against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, former CIA Director George Tenet, Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence Steven Cambone Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, Brig. Gen. Janis I. Karpinski and other military officers who served in positions of responsibility in Iraq. The lawsuit accuses them of war crimes and torture in connection with detainee abuses at Abu Ghraib prison.

In a public statement, the center explained that because the U.S. Congress had

"failed" to seriously investigate the Abu Ghraib abuses, it had chosen Germany to file its complaint because of that country's Code of Crimes Against International Law. The code grants German courts universal jurisdiction in cases involving war crimes or crimes against humanity. Military or civilian commanders failing to prevent their subordinates from committing such acts can be held liable under this law. The prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe reportedly is examining the 170-page complaint to see if an investigation is warranted.

As a result, Rumsfeld will not be attending the 48th Munich Security Conference next month, and he has informed the German government of his cancellation.

I fully agree when the letter writer said, "You can delegate authority, but you can't delegate responsibility."

Those responsible at the highest levels must be punished, also.

Edwin Thornburg

Wurzberg, Germany

New Navy uniform a mistake

The Navy is suffering from dysfunction at leadership, as evidenced by the recent Task Force Uniform initiative designed to change the E-6 and below Navy uniform to a Marine Corps look-alike. The master chief petty officer of the Navy is doing this to appease the junior enlisted members in the hopes that they will improve morale.

The Task Force Uniform concept is a mistake from the start — by using surveys and polls to choose a uniform. What is popular now may well be unpopular in the near future. Then what? Initiate another Task Force Uniform and start more surveys and polls only to change the uniform again?

The Navy should stick with the uniform it has. Pride in wearing the uniform doesn't come by changing a uniform. Pride comes from within. As a junior enlisted I didn't complain about my Navy uniform — I made sure I was "squared away" by wearing embroidery when it wasn't mandatory, maintaining my physical fitness, body fat and weight and using plenty of starch for military-style creases.

I never had a desire to wear the Marine uniform. If I did, I would have joined the Marine Corps.

Chief Petty Officer Bernard M. Burawski
Altamonte Springs, Fla.



by G.B. Trudeau

HE KNOWS IT'S WITH GREAT RESPECT, BUT HE'S NOT SURE HE'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO BRING YOU SOME MORE NEWS.



ARE YOU KNOWING THAT THE TOPICALITY PERIOD HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR THE BUREAU TO BRING YOU SOME MORE NEWS.



HOWEVER, THERE ARE LIMITS AND HIS FEELINGS ARE BEING HURT BY THE WAY HE'S BEING TREATED.



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Bush put big picture into words
Chicago Tribune

At his [second] inaugural, President Bush spoke to a nation where political divisions run deep, a nation where many of its citizens sharply question the wisdom of his leadership.

The president acknowledged that division, but he also delivered a stirring reminder that there are values — democracy, liberty, freedom and opportunity — that unite this nation.

Those are not mere words. They are words that dictate actions, words that carry consequences, words that can bring change — and pain. "America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one," Bush said. The speech was notable for what Bush did not say. He did not mention Iraq. He said nothing of Iran, North Korea or other nations that threaten the world with their nuclear ambitions. He didn't have to.

For as surely as the Cold War was a contest between two ideologies — capitalism and communism — so too is the current war on terror a battle of beliefs. In this war, America fights an enemy that cherishes fear over liberty, that fights fiercely to maintain the ability to repress women and minorities, that slaughters innocents in a campaign to deny citizens the right to vote freely. ...

Inaugural speeches sometimes rise to history. Here is a prayer that Bush's words live beyond the moment, and that the next four years are defined not by divisions, but by the values that all Americans share.

No one could rival Carson
The (Carlisle, Pa.) Sentinel

Carnac the Magnificent, Art Fern, host of the "Tea Time Movie," Floyd R. Turbo, concerned citizen. And dear, sweet, lovable Aunt Blabby.

Any of these were characters played by Johnny Carson, the record-setting host of "The Tonight Show" who died Sunday at age 79. But Carson won't be remembered for the roles so much as he will be remembered for being himself. ...

As a fan and a student of comedy, he championed the people who could make him laugh. The simple device of inviting a young standup comic over to the desk instead of cutting to a commercial was Carson's stamp of approval — and it was that seldom escaped his fans' notice.

Competing TV networks coveted Carson's audience, and it's a tribute to him that they could never carve out much of a slice of it from him. From Jonny Lee Miller to Matt Damon, from Dick Cavett to Chevy Chase, from Pat Sajak and Joan Rivers to Arsenio Hall, there are enough of them to create a museum of failed late-night talk show hosts.

Carson was never too hip to the heart-land, never too uncool for the coasts. Despite his occasional flights with the network to Las Vegas, shorter the program and bring in guest hosts more often, he never seemed tired of the show and he always made it look easy.

Keep moderation in mind
The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

President Bush's second term inevitably will change America's domestic politics. His legacy and the country's future will be brightest if he makes balance his watchword.

That means resisting any urge to remake society along the lines of the most conservative Republican ideology. Such overreach could threaten long-standing social safety nets, supports and deeper cultural divisions without re-establishing the middle-class strengths that have built this country.



If Bush follows a moderate course, however, he will give the country opportunities to build on the individual virtues about which he so deeply cares while maintaining reasonable levels of social support and cohesion.

After a first term marked by tax cuts and deficits, Bush has an obligation to follow through on promises to reduce the flow of red ink. One test of leadership will be to limit the deficits without damaging housing, education and low-income health care. ...

Rather than bemoaning the differences between Washington, D.C. and Austin, Texas, he needs to take responsibility for creating more common ground. Nothing would help more than big doses of moderation, balance and compassionate policymaking.

Also cure what all recipients
Journal Star, Peoria, Ill.

The father in your neighborhood who developed Lou Gehrig's disease at age 33 called a Social Security check if he can no longer work. So do the young mother disabled by multiple sclerosis, the 55-year-old former hospital aide whose back gave out after too many years of lifting patients, and the 22-year-old with Christopher Reeve's limitations but not his money.

You might call individuals such as these the silent minority of Social Security recipients. Unable to work when things get lean, often burdened by high medical (and sometimes by high caretaking) bills, sometimes raising children, too young to have invested much, they may be the program's most vulnerable. As the nation ponders the future of Social Security, we need to hear, and to talk, much more about them. ...

Yet the disability side of the Social Security program has been largely forgotten in our obsession with the retirement side. ...

As this suggests, nothing about Social Security reform is simple. There is great risk of hurting badly those struck down early, before they have a chance to reveal what Wall Street might endow. No reform should pass, or be proposed, that shortchanges the most vulnerable.

New telecom plan should stay
The Philadelphia Inquirer

With radio shock-jock Howard Stern cheering, the Jan. 21 announcement that Michael Powell is resigning, the Federal Communications Commission chairman's

15 minutes in the public spotlight appears to be nearing its end. But it won't be Powell's tussle with Stern over potty-mouthed, on-air performances — nor his agency's crackdown after Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" — that forms his legacy.

Rather, it is Powell's policymaking across a range of mind-numbingly complex communications issues that are noteworthy.

When he was right — as on promoting an unfettered Internet, and online phone and wireless services — he was a trailblazer. When wrong — as when Powell championed misguided media mergers and a backward step on local phone competition — he was far off-base. ...

Powell leaves in March. His successor doesn't have to achieve the same high profile, much less prompt a Stern rant. An ear for consumers' concerns on all telecom issues — at least as attentive as the FCC under Powell has been to industry — will welcome change enough.

Reconfigure reservist equation
The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

The "wave of steel" that rolled through the Iraqi desert is corrugating in the swamp of occupation and insurgency, and America's citizen-soldiers are paying a high price for that. With reserves now making up 40 percent of American Army forces in Iraq and Kuwait — and heading toward 50 percent — the Pentagon's Army Reserve chief is right to warn that this force could soon be broken.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld owes the country and its servicemembers an explanation for that disproportionate commitment of reserve forces, instead of better redeployment of the nation's sizable active-duty military force. While today's reservists are better trained and equipped than their predecessors, Rumsfeld's refusal to admit a need for more active-duty deployments is placing a huge burden on the nation's part-time soldiers. ...

The demands being made on reservists already are hurting recruitment and retention, making it more difficult for these units to meet their mandated missions. Worse, the inability to retain soldiers could lead to less-experienced, less-capable units being sent in harm's way.

There simply is no excuse for the fact that reservists, despite being as well trained as any in this country's history, make up nearly half the Army in the Middle East. ...

America's combination of volunteer regular forces and skilled reserves has been a good one, but this administration's miscalculations in Iraq have now put it at risk.

Schiao's fate not state's call
The Palm Beach Post, West Palm Beach, Fla.

[Florida] Gov. [Jeb] Bush dangerously involved the state in the dispute over Terri Schiavo's life. That dispute isn't over, but thanks to the U.S.'s Supreme Court, the state is out of it.

On Monday, the justices declined to hear the governor's appeal of September's unanimous Florida Supreme Court ruling that struck down "Terri's Law."

Facing pressure from groups opposed to abortion and physician-assisted suicide, legislators wrote "Terri's Law" strictly for Ms. Schiavo, and the governor signed it. In so doing, the legislative and executive branches unconstitutionally tried to block an order by the judicial branch that they didn't like.

Ms. Schiavo's case got into the courts because she, like many Floridians, did not have a living will. If the Legislature wishes to change the state's death-and-dying laws to address such cases, the Legislature can do so. But that will be a different debate. ...

There is almost certainly no satisfying outcome to the tragedy that has become the Terri Schiavo case but, because of the state Supreme Court and now the U.S. Supreme Court, it still may be an isolated case.

Graner still doesn't get it
The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch

The conviction and 10-year sentence for U.S. Army Spc. Charles Graner Jr., ring-leader of the prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, should make clear that the United States has not abandoned common decency in the effort to eradicate terrorism.

Graner's sentence also reduces his rank to private and orders him dishonorably discharged from the military after he completes his sentence.

He was found guilty of beating prisoners, ordering them stripped naked and stacked into pyramids, forcing them into simulated sex acts and photographing them.

The harsh punishment is suitable for a soldier who still has demonstrated little understanding that his actions disgraced the Army and the nation.

YOUR MONEY

Combat pay, IRAs and other tax changes

BY MARY DEIBEL

Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — While most breaks will go to big corporations, individual taxpayers and small-business owners also will benefit this tax season from the latest changes in the federal tax law. Changes include:

■ **State and local sales tax deductions.** For the first time, taxpayers who itemize can choose to deduct their state and local sales tax instead of state and local income tax.

The decision is a no-brainer for taxpayers from Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Wyoming — states with no general income tax — but the option is less clear for taxpayers elsewhere.

To see if you benefit, even if you didn't save sales receipts last year, the Internal Revenue Service has put out Publication 600. It has state sales tax tables on pages 3 to 5 and an updated version of Publication 600 is posted on the www.irs.gov Web site to reflect sales tax changes in Arkansas, California and Virginia.

IRS Publication 600 also has a worksheet on which you figure

city and county local-option sales tax on lines 2a through 2d.

Big spenders should start saving their sales receipts to document items like cars, trucks, RVs, boats and airplanes that may be subject to special state and local sales taxes over and above the general sales tax rate. Sales taxes for home construction and remodeling also warrant saving receipts.

If you move from a high-income state to one that relies on sales tax, you cannot claim both the income and or sales tax deductions, but must choose between them, the IRS says. To figure which option leaves you better off, pro-rate the number of days you spent at each place, divide by 366 — the number of days in 2004 — and apportion sales tax versus income-tax rates accordingly.

■ **Car donations.** These face tighter rules if made on or after Jan. 1. If you got under the wire last year, the old tax law lets you claim the Blue Book value depending on the condition of a donated vehicle worth less than \$5,000. If the car was worth more, you need a formal appraisal to satisfy the IRS. Starting in 2005, how-

ever, you can claim only what the qualified tax-exempt charity received for selling your car, which may be auctioned for little money to a chop shop for parts.

■ **Child tax credits.** These credits will stay at an annual maximum of \$1,000 a child through 2010.

The credit cuts the amount of income tax parents owe dollar for dollar, and because the credit is "refundable," the credit will let some lower-income workers wipe out their tax bill AND provide them with a refund.

The tax credit may be more generous to some families altogether than it cannot exceed \$1,000 a child. IRS Forms 1040 and 1040A include a Child Credit Worksheet, and parents also must include IRS Form 8812 to figure the credit.

■ **Combat pay.** Combat pay isn't subject to federal income tax but can count as 2004 income for military families figuring the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Ordinarily, both credits depend on taxable income. Including combat pay for purposes of figuring tax credits ensures that low-income military families qualify.

■ **Contingent fees.** Court judgments to lawyers for victims of discrimination aren't taxable to the victim anymore. Standard agreements for lawyers who take a bias case generally have the fees paid directly to the lawyer without the victim seeing that money, but the IRS fought all the way to the Supreme Court to make the victim, as well as the lawyer pay income tax on the fee. Congress disagreed and clarified the law.

■ **Teachers.** Teachers can deduct \$250 for classroom supplies under a tax break Congress renewed for 2004 and 2005 returns. Out-of-pocket expenses for chalk, books, computer software and other supplies bought by Dec. 31, 2004, can be claimed as an above-the-line deduction even if you don't itemize.

■ **Retirement accounts.** Contributions increase for 2005. For tax-sheltered 401(k)-style accounts, it's too late if you didn't max out on 2004 contribution levels up to \$13,000, plus \$3,000 more for workers 50 and older. But those limits increased Jan. 1 to \$14,000 plus \$4,000 more for those 50 and older.

Individual Retirement Account contributions, available for your

2004 tax return for contributions made through April 15, also increased. Your 2004 contributions, for both traditional tax-deferred IRAs and Roth IRAs, is \$3,000 plus \$500 more for taxpayers 50 and older.

For 2005, IRA limits are \$4,000 with a \$500 catch-up for those 50 and above.

■ **Tsunami relief.** Taxpayers who contribute tsunami aid to qualified domestic charities can do so with cash, check or credit card through Jan. 31, and claim the deduction on their 2004 taxes under Congress' first bill of 2005. But you cannot give in-kind contributions, appreciated stock or non-cash gifts for a 2004 tax deduction.

IRS Publication 78 offers guidance on qualified U.S. charities, as do the www.GuideStar.org and Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance www.give.org Web sites.

■ **Small business breaks.** Small business owners won't extend the Section 179 "instant" deduction allowance for investing \$100,000 in equipment and computer software through 2007, with the deduction adjusted for inflation starting in 2005. The post-9/11 tax break was to expire Dec. 31, 2004.

iPod shuffle: Small in size, packed with performance

BY RON HARRIS

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Since Apple Computer Inc. introduced the iPod in 2001, competitors have been scrambling to match the simplicity and style of the popular digital music player. But try as they might, the original just keeps getting better.

The latest flavor, the diminutive iPod Shuffle, proves that fewer bells and whistles can be just as good as more.

Unlike previous models, it uses flash memory instead of a hard drive. It's also much more compact. And, starting at \$99, much less expensive.

And despite the absence of a display to tell you what's playing, the Shuffle's ease of use is unrivaled. It's also a solid performer with sounds that holds up against most other flash memory-based MP3 players you'll find on store shelves.

The iPod shuffle weighs less than my watch, is smaller than a pack of Trident gum and can hold 120 songs on the 512-megabyte model (\$99) and twice as much on the 1-gigabyte model (\$149).

Visually, it's little more than a small white stick with a USB plug on one end and a headphone jack on the other. Tracks are navigated with buttons that are arranged to resemble the familiar iPod click wheel.

There's no docking cradle. No bulky battery pack. No A/C adapter.

There's really not much here except the best portable music player for the money. Paired with Apple's popular online music store — 250 million songs downloaded and counting as of Monday — this iPod shuffle could be just the low-priced entry-level player for those on the sidelines have been waiting for.

The installation disc includes the latest version of iTunes music management software. Once you've got that on your computer (Windows or Mac) you

simply plug the Shuffle's USB plug directly into an available USB port on your computer and up pops your music collection, ripe for the shuffling.

And herein lies the feature that may change the way I listen to music. At the click of a new button called "Autofill" on the iTunes interface, the software automatically loads the shuffle with a random selection from my digital music library.

It was a bit of a personal revelation when I first autofilled the loaner 512 MB model from my hearty music folder. The result? Too much Insane Clown Posse and not enough Andres Segovia. The Shuffle also grabbed some lengthy drum 'n' bass mix tracks which ate up a bit too much space.

If you're not sure you want a random mix, you can upload a specific order of songs and the unit will play them nicely. If you change your mind and want them shuffled, a sliding switch on the back of the unit will do the trick instantly.

Also on the backside of the shuffle is a battery status check light; green means plenty, amber means low and red means you don't have much juice left. No light means no power.

The specs say the Shuffle's rechargeable battery, juiced up by plugging it into a computer's USB port, will last for 12 hours. It takes about 4 hours for a full charge.

After at least 3 hours of use upon first filling the Shuffle with music, I never dipped into the amber level once.

But there are some drawbacks. Since there's no LCD screen on the Shuffle, there's really no way to navigate to a particular track without memorizing the order and clicking through them. That might be a bummer for some who want quick access to a particular song.

Otherwise, there's little fault to find here. For those looking for simplicity and ultra-portability, less can be more.



The iPod shuffle is a compact and less-expensive version of the regular-sized iPod shown here. Attached to this iPod is the Simpli A1, a small but powerful amplifier that clips on to the back. The Simpli A1, from Simpli Acoustics costs \$149; reviewers say it does the job well.

YOUR MONEY

Large finances, big education

Q: I have a high FICO credit score of 785, but my husband, who was late with every bill possible, has a poor score in the 400s.

When we got married a few years ago, we bought our home using just my credit and income to receive a good mortgage rate. My husband's name is not on the mortgage or on the deed to the house. We were told that to preserve my score we would need to file our income taxes separately and maintain separate credit and bank accounts.

Since I've taken over paying the bills, everything's been paid on time and it seems silly to maintain the separation any longer. How'd I like to combine financial forces to help my husband's name to the deed. What would the repercussions be? How would our credit score be affected?

A: You want a little overboard — OK, a lot overboard — trying to keep your finances separate.

How you file your taxes has nothing to do with your credit scores. Your scores, the three-digit numbers lenders use to gauge your creditworthiness, are based entirely on the information in your credit reports.

These reports typically won't contain any tax-related information, unless you've failed to pay Uncle Sam and wound up with a tax lien or other collection action.

So if you suspect that your husband is defrauding the government and want to try to maintain some distance, then filing separate returns makes sense. Otherwise, you've filed two returns all these years for nothing and possibly cut yourself out of some tax credits and other

benefits available only to couples filing jointly.

You also could have added your husband's name to the deed years ago. You are smart to get the mortgage solely on your own credit and earning power, but there's no reason to exclude him from being on the legal document that determines ownership of the house.

Again, this won't affect your credit.

What might affect his credit — for the better — is if you were to add him to one of your credit cards. Some credit card companies will import your good history with that card into his credit reports.

He should try a few things to boost his score on his own, such as getting a secured credit card and using it regularly but lightly.

What you don't want to do is try to apply for credit together until his score has improved considerably. Lenders typically determine the rates and terms of a loan using the lower score when a couple applies for credit.

Right now, for example, you could qualify for a new-car loan rate of about 5 percent. That would mean you would pay about \$2,000 in interest over four years on a \$20,000 loan. If you could get approved with your husband's scores, you would get a rate somewhere north of 14 percent and would pay nearly three times as much for interest. That's too high a price to pay for togetherness.

Q: I am a 23-year-old who recently received a \$20,000 gift from my parents for a future

home down payment. I won't be ready to buy for about five years, and in the meantime I would like to put the money in a low-risk, high-liquidity investment.

I'm learning toward investing in an index mutual fund tied to the Standard & Poor's 500 benchmark of large-company stocks. Is this the best use of my money given my intentions?

A: It's almost refreshing to hear someone refer to stocks as a "low-risk" investment, reminiscent as it is of the go-go market of the late 1990s. Ah, those were the days.

But reality hasn't changed. Stocks and stock mutual funds weren't low-risk then, and they aren't low-risk now. They're no place to put money you're going to need in the next 10 years.

Put the cash in a money market or a "laddered" portfolio of certificates of deposit (where the money is divided among CDs that mature at different times).

Then save your desire to get into the market by contributing as much as you can to your workplace 401(k) and a Roth IRA. Invest that money in mutual funds tied to the S&P 500, though, a little bond and cash exposure on the side.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 2340 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or via her Web site, www.lizweston.com. She regrets that she cannot respond personally to queries.



Liz Pulliam Weston

Rebuilding credit

Once you emerge from bankruptcy-court protection, you begin the long journey of rebuilding your credit record.

Sometimes you won't be able to immediately get credit extended to you. Many times, though, creditors will give you a credit card or auto loan knowing that you can't file for bankruptcy again for years, creditors experts said. The catch is you'll pay a high interest rate for that credit.

To get the low rates offered to other consumers, you'll have to show creditors that you are responsible. And that can take years of repaying bills on time.

One way to start the process of improving your credit record is by getting a credit card and using it for small purchases. Never charge more than you can afford. And make sure you pay the balance off each month on time.

Shop around for a secured card. Some lenders charge a where-to-find-it fee. Linnus Campbell, director of education for Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland and Delaware.

Track expenses and build up savings so an emergency expense that crops up won't throw you in a financial tailspin.

From The Baltimore Sun

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week	High	Low	Name	Last	Net	%	YTD	%	52-week
High	Low	Name	Last	Net	%	YTD	%	52-week	Low
10,858.77	5,706.49	Dow Jones Industrial	10,867.40	-13.10	-0.12	-0.12	-0.12	-0.12	5,706.49
3,623.96	2,243.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,554.12	+157.72	+4.47	+4.47	+4.47	+4.47	2,243.46
2,731.69	1,594.62	Dow Jones Utilities	2,788.14	+28.45	+1.02	+1.02	+1.02	+1.02	1,594.62
7,733.18	6,211.33	NASDAQ Composite	7,648.97	+25.74	+0.34	+0.34	+0.34	+0.34	6,211.33
1,437.46	1,126.74	NYSE Composite	1,422.47	+1.02	+0.07	+0.07	+0.07	+0.07	1,126.74
1,217.90	1,064.72	NYSE Composite	1,214.25	+1.66	+0.14	+0.14	+0.14	+0.14	1,064.72
566.11	515.90	Russell 2000	561.90	+3.48	+0.61	+0.61	+0.61	+0.61	515.90
12,043.6	10,266.50	D. Williams 100	11,563.33	+65.89	+0.58	+0.58	+0.58	+0.58	10,266.50

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Vol ('00)	Last	Chg
Lucent	405723	3.30	+03
NokiaCp	332291	15.22	+89
AT&T	303398	19.60	+1.15
SBC Com	271073	23.67	-91
Pfizer	260765	24.68	-09
Gap	220901	21.84	+58
TimeWarn	203776	17.99	-16
GenElec	181352	35.61	+12
Corning	152691	10.75	-20
UPS B	151897	74.01	-1.45

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
SPDR	528897	117.43	+20
Semihalf	336310	31.16	+21
iShares2000	94066	122.90	+35
DJIA Diam	83373	104.57	-22
iSh Japan	57976	10.62	-87
NORON gn	52070	2.99	+31
iSh Taiwan	40996	11.40	-85
OiSVHt	40412	89.54	+99
SP Engy	29612	37.56	+33
TeleChf	22983	27.11	-34

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
asds100tr	925998	37.10	-.05
IS Uniph	925115	2.24	-.21
isco	76386	18.18	+.49
tel	761720	22.31	-.11
microsoft	739704	26.11	+.10
acle	608912	13.97	+.35
rusS	558404	6.36	+.18
Matl	500147	16.48	+.36
risign	359299	25.46	-.82
inMicro	343786	4.12	-.03

EXCHANGE RATES

Japanese yen (Jan. 29)	101.90
South Korean won (Jan. 28)	1,001.00
Euro (Jan. 28)	1.3402
Dollar bills (Jan. 28)	1.07461
British pound (Jan. 28)	51.93
Commercial rates	
Bahian (Oct.)	1.777
British pound	\$1.8866
Canada (Dollar)	1.2374
Denmark (Krone)	2.012
Egypt (Pound)	2.012
Euro	\$1.3040/160
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.995
Indonesia (Rupiah)	160.7
Iceland (Krona)	62.25
Israel (Sheqel)	4.027
Japan (Yen)	100.03
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2913
Norway (Krone)	6.398
Philippines (Peso)	55.14
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3402
South Korea (Won)	1,001.00
Taiwan (Dollar)	3.404
Thailand (Baht)	36.48
Turkey (New Lira)	1.3402
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance)	
United States (Dollar)	1.0000
Netherlands and the United Kingdom	
(For non-dollar currency exchange rates, see purchasing British pounds in Germany)	
United States (Dollar)	1.0000
United States (Dollar)	1.0000
United States (Dollar)	1.0000
United States (Dollar)	1.0000
United States (Dollar)	1.0000

Cents and Sensibility

Debt may not hurt score

MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Simply having debt won't necessarily hurt your credit score.

So reports Experian Consumer Direct, one of three credit agencies that monitor your financial behavior. Your credit score is an analysis of your past credit history that is used by lenders to figure out how much of a risk you are. Scores range from 300 to 850. The higher your score, the better — only those with a score of 700 or higher are eligible for a lender's best interest rates.

In a recent study of personal debt and credit scores across the nation, Experian found that consumers with debts above the national average also tend to have better credit scores. They know how to manage their debt well. U.S. consumers have an average debt of \$11,224. Yet consumers with debt exceeding that amount have an average credit score of 695, compared with the national average credit score of 677.

The key in keeping your credit score high while taking on debt is to practice smart financial behavior. To avoid lowering your credit score:

■ Take care to manage your current accounts well — don't miss payments or make payments late.

■ If you open new lines of credit — either for a credit card, loan or other financing — be careful to space out your requests. Asking for too much credit within a short period of time is viewed by credit reporting agencies as a sign that you might be getting to over your head.

■ Don't extend yourself beyond your means by taking on a new default penalties allow a credit card company to increase your interest rate if a late payment shows on your credit report for any credit card account or loan or other debt involving any other company.

It doesn't matter if you've never made a late payment to the company that wants to increase your interest rates.

PRECIOUS METALS

Gold	New York Mercile	\$426.30
Silver	New York Mercile	\$10.80
Platinum	New York Mercile	\$1,000.00
Palladium	New York Mercile	\$1,000.00
Gold	New York Mercile	\$426.30
Silver	New York Mercile	\$10.80
Platinum	New York Mercile	\$1,000.00
Palladium	New York Mercile	\$1,000.00

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	4.75
3-month T-bill	2.125
3-month bill	2.44
30-year bond	5.125
Sources:	The Associated Press, Bank of America

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	High	Low	Net	%	YTD	%	52-week	Low
Altech Technologies	27.18	26.62	+1.13	+4.18	+4.18	+4.18	+4.18	26.62
Boeing	1.00	0.99	+0.01	+1.01	+1.01	+1.01	+1.01	0.99
General Electric	27.18	26.62	+1.13	+4.18	+4.18	+4.18	+4.18	26.62
IBM	5.88	5.80	+0.08	+1.38	+1.38	+1.38	+1.38	5.80
Microsoft	24.66	24.66	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	24.66
Novartis	2.49	2.49	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	2.49
United Therapeutics	3.69	3.69	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	3.69
United Therapeutics	3.69	3.69	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	3.69
United Therapeutics	3.69	3.69	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	3.69
United Therapeutics	3.69	3.69	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	3.69

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	High	Low	Net	%	YTD	%	52-week	Low
Fidelity Asset Growth	28.18	27.18	+1.00	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	27.18
Fidelity Asset Growth	28.18	27.18	+1.00	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	27.18
Fidelity Asset Growth	28.18	27.18	+1.00	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	27.18
Fidelity Asset Growth	28.18	27.18	+1.00	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	27.18
Fidelity Asset Growth	28.18	27.18	+1.00	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	27.18
Fidelity Asset Growth	28.18	27.18	+1.00	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	27.18
Fidelity Asset Growth	28.18	27.18	+1.00	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	27.18
Fidelity Asset Growth	28.18	27.18	+1.00	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	27.18
Fidelity Asset Growth	28.18	27.18	+1.00	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	+3.55	27.18

Discover why so many people are saying...

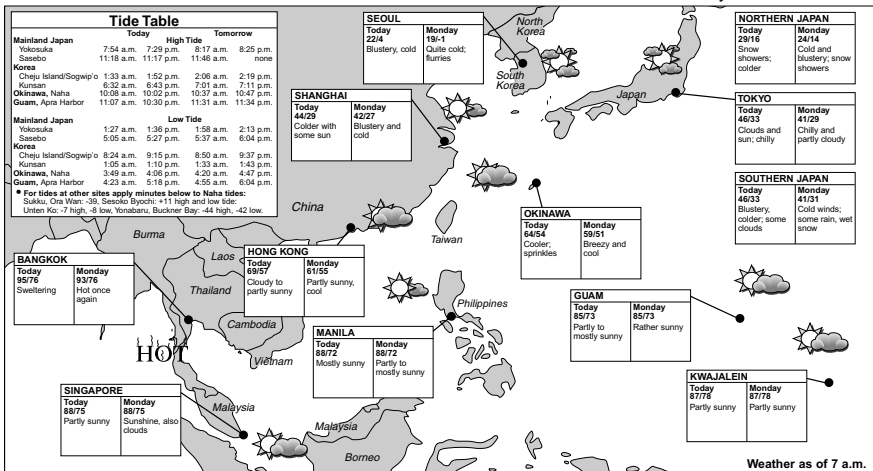
First Command

First Command
www.FirstCommand.com

The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided by AccuWeather.com ©2005



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 42, low 30. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high 43, low 26.	KADENA Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 57, low 49. Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 59, low 51.	SEoul Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 17, low 2. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 17, low 3.	MANILA Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 72. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 72.	HAGATNA Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 75. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 73.
--	---	--	---	--

Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	52/31	Los Angeles	62/49
Amarillo	42/29	Little Rock	39/36
Anchorage	18/4	Louisville	42/30
Asheville	36/26	Miami	76/64
Baltimore	27/10	Milwaukee	30/19
Birmingham	47/38	Nashville	47/31
Bismark	42/25	New York	24/14
Boise	46/32	Omaha	34/24
Boston	20/12	Orlando	67/56
Brownsville	72/57	Philadelphia	25/9
Buffalo	20/7	Phoenix	66/49
Burlington	12/-7	Pittsburgh	28/5
Charleston, SC	40/32	Portland, OR	53/44
Charlotte	39/25	Portland, ME	21/3
Cleveland	28/10	Salt Lake City	43/32
Columbus, OH	32/14	St. Louis	39/30
Duluth	25/19	San Antonio	60/49
El Paso	58/37	San Diego	63/52
Hartford	18/-3	San Juan	84/60
Helena	42/22	Tampa	71/56
Indianapolis	34/24	Tulsa	39/28
Jacksonville	51/45	Washington, DC	27/16
Kansas City	36/26	Wichita	34/26

Sunday, January 30



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system will spread some ice from eastern West Virginia to central North Carolina Sunday. A few rain and snow showers will occur over the Ohio Valley as a bit of rain falls over the rest of the Carolinas; some showers will dampen Florida. A weak cold front will push through the Great Lakes and Northeast triggering some flurries in its path. Rain will accompany a storm system moving through Texas and Oklahoma; the rain will spread into the Mississippi Valley. Some snow and sleet will mix with the rain in northern Oklahoma and Kansas. Rain and mountain snow showers will form over New Mexico and Colorado. Monday should be dry much of the West.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	95/76	Iwakuni	45/28
Beijing	29/19	Kadena AB	64/54
Camp Casey	23/3	Kunsan AB	29/18
Christchurch	75/60	Kwajalein	87/78
Diego Garcia	84/76	Manila	88/72
Hagatna	85/73	Masawa AB	30/18
Hanoi	74/62	Perth	26/6
Hong Kong	69/57	Taipei	90/68
Honolulu	82/68	Pusan	38/21

Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	88/72	Budapest	25/13	Kabul	38/14	Nairobi	84/56
Athens	49/35	Buenos Aires	77/55	Kiev	19/8	New Delhi	36/28
Auckland	74/60	Cairo	80/55	Kuwait	73/52	Oslo	35/25
Baghdad	71/48	Cancun	82/68	London	46/38	Paris	39/30
Barbados	85/68	Cape Town	78/57	Madrid	43/30	Rio de Janeiro	78/70
Barcelona	30/29	Geneva	27/22	Mexico City	75/46	Rome	40/27
Berlin	30/28	Istanbul	42/31	Montreal	25/14	St. Petersburg	18/10
Bermuda	57/50	Jerusalem	70/48	Mogadishu	90/74	Stockholm	34/31
Brussels	42/31	Johannesburg	83/61	Moscow	16/3	Warsaw	23/13



Sell it.....Free!

Advertise your car, truck, motorcycle, boat or bicycle in Stars and Stripes. No charge! On us! Up to 7 lines of copy for 21 days - free! Call Classified today at 295-3276 or e-mail us at classified@starsandstripes.com. Individuals only - no dealers!

New Maritime Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
www.starsandstripes.com

SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Walter Scott's Personality PARADE

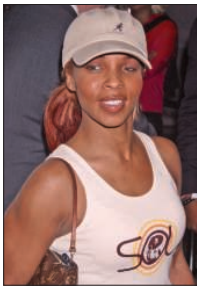
Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.



KRT



AP



KRT

Thanks to the ministrations of trainer Mark Jenkins, P. Diddy, above, got in shape for a marathon; Mary J. Blige, left, lost 30 pounds; and Beyoncé Knowles, far left, whittled her "bowling pin" body shape into an "hourglass."

Q Is it true that Nicole Kidman is dating Stephen Bing, the playboy who dumped Liz Hurley while she was pregnant with his child? — Trisha McK., Irvine, Calif.

A We recently asked her point-blank: "Are you dating Steve Bing?" Replied Kidman, 36: "No, I'm not romantically interested in him." The awesome Aussie said dating is difficult because her celebrity intimates many men. Our advice to Nicole: Hold out for the best. You deserve it.

Q Years ago, Sen. Joe Biden had hair-implant plugs. Is that procedure still used, or do balding celebs have other options? — Randall Henry, Sacramento, Calif.

A Plugs are out," says Dr. Paul McAndrews, whose expertise and discretion attract many high-profile hairlines. "Today's state of the art is follicular unit grafts using a stereoscopic microscope." It costs \$4,000-\$30,000. Many celebs have had transplants, but Tom Arnold and John Cleese are among the few to go public.

Q Garth Brooks seems to have vanished. What's happened to him? — T. Long, Mobile, Ala.

A He's been in semi-retirement for four years — since ending his turbulent, 14-year marriage to Sandy Mahl, mother of his three girls. Garth, 42, says he misses showbiz, but being at home in Oklahoma with his daughters is worth it. He says he might return when his youngest turns 18. (That would be in 2014.) Meanwhile, Garth denies rumors of a secret marriage to his longtime musical collaborator, Trisha Yearwood, 40. If they haven't tied the knot yet, we predict they will soon.

Q Rob Lowe got booted from "The West Wing," "The Lyon's Den" and "dr. vegas." Is the TV industry prejudiced against him? — Beverly Werneburg, Granada Hills, Calif.

A Quite the opposite. The industry has given him several chances, but Lowe, 40, hasn't found the right vehicle since quitting "The West Wing." (He wasn't fired.) More important, the TV audience hasn't warmed up to him, so his shows got booted.

Q ABC's ratings have soared thanks to "Desperate Housewives" and "Lost." Will that boost ex-ABC President Robert Iger's chances of succeeding Michael Eisner as CEO of Disney, ABC's parent company, when Eisner retires in 2006? — Kara Ganz, Duluth, Minn.

A We don't see why it should. It wasn't Iger (now Disney's president) but Susan Lyne, head of ABC's prime-time entertainment schedule, who helped develop those shows before Eisner fired her. But Lyne, 54, got sweet revenge: She landed a three-year contract as president of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia and immediately sold Martha's forthcoming show to rival NBC.

Q You said Bette Davis was a better actress than Ingrid Bergman. I agree. Where does that leave Kate Hepburn? — Robert Burns, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

A She wasn't called Katharine the Great for nothing. Hepburn won four Oscars — a record — which says it all. But our pick for the all-time best film actress is no golden olde. It's Meryl Streep, who already has surpassed Hepburn's 12 nominations, has won twice and, at 55, still is going strong.

Q Your report on Hollywood's top fitness guru made me curious: Who trains the hottest bobs in the music biz? — Erik Shelton, Green Bay, Wis.

A Mark Jenkins, 34, who whipped P. Diddy into shape in just eight weeks for his 4 1/2-hour finish in the 2003 New York City Marathon. He also helped Mary J. Blige take off 30 pounds and put Beyoncé on a 30-day intensive regimen. "I told Beyoncé we had to change her shape from a bowling pin into an hourglass," says Jenkins, whose book, "The Jump Off: 60 Days to a Hip-Hop Hard Body," was published this month.

Q Robin Williams hasn't made a comedy since "Death to Smoochy" in 2002. Why is he avoiding his strongest suit? — Mason Lubert, Vienna, Va.

A He isn't. Williams, 53, says really great comic scripts are hard to find. Until one comes along, he's doing his historic best — lending his voice to the animated film "Robots" and appearing with daughter Zelda in "House of D," directed by David Duchovny. Both are due this spring.

Q I'm a fan of Dominic Dunne ("The Two Mrs. Grenvilles," "A Season in Purgatory"). When can we expect his next novel? — Tom Jones, South Plainfield, N.J.

A "I'm writing 'A Solo Act,' which I hope to have published next fall," Dunne, 79, tells us. "It's set in New York and is about money, corruption and murder." Sounds like Dunne's formula is a nutshell.

FACES

See Hawke juggle

Fans of the 'Assault on Precinct 13' star will be seeing a lot of him this year

BY STEVEN REA
Knight Ridder/Tribune

"There's something kind of pleasing about working inside these genres," says Ethan Hawke, who stars as a shellshocked police sarge in the gleefully generic "Assault on Precinct 13."

"It's like jazz musicians, taking a very familiar, very commercial tune — say, 'Jingle Bells' — and then you put a spin on it. You know exactly how it's going to work. You just have to riff around it."

"Jingle Bells" is a good example, since "Assault on Precinct 13" — which opened in the States last week and is a remake of John Carpenter's 1976 police station siege pic — is set at the end of the Christmas holiday week, on New Year's Eve.

Hawke is the top gun in a virtually deserted Detroit precinct house, sharing the graveyard shift with an oversexed secretary (Dea De Matteo) and an over-the-hill beat cop (Brian Dennehy). And then a bus full of bad guys — among them Laurence Fishburne, John Leguizamo and Ja Rule — is diverted to the station, and Maria Bello, who plays Hawke's character's shrink, shows up too. And Gabriel Byrne chews up a lot of scenery as a tainted police detective. And then all heck breaks loose.

"I knew of John Carpenter's movie," says Hawke about the original "Assault," which had a cast led by Austin Stoker, Darwin Joston and Laurie Zimmer. (Who, who and who?) "I'd seen it when I was younger, and then I never even really watched it again."

So when director Jean-François Richet and producer-writer James DeMonaco came along, Hawke sat and talked, and then he read the script. "I was looking to do something fun, something that didn't take itself too seriously. I had a real good time working on 'Training Day,' and I was seeing if I could follow up that genre."

In some ways, Hawke's character, Jake Roenick, can be seen as the what-could-have-happened continuation of his "Training Day" role — the new kid riding with the rogue L.A. narc played by Denzel Washington. (Washington won an Oscar for his work in the 2001 release, and Hawke was nominated for one.) As "Assault on Precinct 13" begins,



Actor Ethan Hawke has a lot of things going on right now: Rehearsals for the 20th-anniversary revival of David Rabe's lacerating Hollywood theater piece, "Hurly Burly," an Academy Award best screenplay nomination for "Before Sunset" and juggling down notes for his next novel.

Hawke is once again undercover, consorting with dealers, worried about the lives of his team.

"In a way, it could have been a sequel," he notes. "If Jake was sitting in a precinct house outside of L.A. instead of Detroit ... it could easily be where this guy had ended up."

"But all that is hindsight. Truth is, it was an entertaining script and I liked the part."

Hawke, 34, has a lot of things going on right now: He's in rehearsals for the 20th-anniversary revival of David Rabe's lacerating Hollywood theater piece, "Hurly Burly," which opens in New York Jan. 27 and also stars Bobby Cannavale, Parker Posey and Wallace Shawn.

In the past two weeks, he has landed an Academy Award best screenplay nomination and a Writers Guild best screenplay nomination — in cahoots with director Richard Linklater and Julie Delpy — for "Before Sunset," a film he and Delpy starred in that landed on many a critic's Top 10 of 2004 list. Hawke reports that he's been to "daydream" and jot down notes for his next novel (he's published two).

And he recently finished up work on "Lord of War," with Nicolas Cage, Jared Leto and Bridget Moynahan. Andrew Niccol, who cast Hawke opposite Uma Thurman in 1997's "Gattaca," wrote and directed the tale of gun-runners in Africa.

"In a simplistic way, it's a portrait of the devil," says Hawke of the film, slated for a midyear release. "It answers the question: How do X million people die in Rwanda and in the Congo and Sierra Leone and these places? Well, somebody sells them AK-47s."

"Who is it that sells them? It's these guys that go to the poorest places in the world and sell arms to both sides of a dispute and then leave town."

"And they make millions and millions of dollars off of other people killing each other. It's kind of a fascinating expose."

Hawke, who plays a U.N. official in "Lord of War," is also looking to get a pet project, "Billy Dead," off the ground. "It's based on the novel by Lisa Reardon. It's a very dark, weird little family drama ... I've been trying to get the movie made for years, but it doesn't seem to be one that is really capturing the financiers' attention."

Starr, Lee pair for comic book adventure

And you thought he could only play the drums. Former Beatle Ringo Starr and comic book mogul Stan Lee announced a partnership Wednesday to launch an original entertainment franchise of an animated persona based on and voiced by Starr.

"Ringo is beloved worldwide for his commitment to people and his singular wit," said Lee, the man responsible for the likes of Spider-Man and The Hulk. "Our Ringo Superhero character will combine these qualities, along with Ringo's secret powers which people generally didn't know about because he has kept them secret — until now."

Starr's alter ego is described as an "evil-battling, Earth-saving — though reluctant — superhero with a great sense of rhythm."

Financed, produced and distributed by IDT Entertainment, Lee's POW! Entertainment will develop the project alongside Starr's Rocca Bella company for television, DVD, publishing and other ventures.

Production on the series will begin this year, with a DVD planned for release in the beginning of 2006.



Starr

Late singer honored with stamp

The late singer Marian Anderson, famed for her contralto voice, was honored on a U.S. postage stamp in a ceremony Thursday.

First-day of issue ceremonies for the stamp were held at DAR Constitution Hall, where the singer was once deemed a chance to perform in the 1930s because she was black.

"There is no more richly deserving of such an honor," commented James DePreist, director of conducting at The Juilliard School in New York and Anderson's nephew.

"I hope that it will give an opportunity for there to be a focus of attention on her, particularly her artistry," he said.

DePreist likened Anderson's success to that of Jackie Robinson, the first black major league baseball player. "When history collides with what you just want to do, your career, then what happens depends on how much grace resides within you," he said.

Europe festival to feature Black Sabbath

Ozzy Osbourne and heavy metal pioneers Black Sabbath will be among the headliners at this year's Roskilde Festival, one of Europe's largest music events.

Osbourne, who grew up in Birmingham, central England, rose to stardom with Black Sabbath in the 1970s before launching a solo career. It will be the band's sole summer festival appearance, organizers said Wednesday.

Last year, 75,000 tickets were sold for the outdoor event, where more than 150 artists, including the Pixies, Morrissey, Sahara Hotlants and Avril Lavigne, performed on Roskilde's six stages.

First held in 1971, the festival in Roskilde, 25 miles west of the capital, Copenhagen, was inspired by the 1969 Woodstock Festival in upstate New York. It attracts visitors from throughout Europe and the United States.

Dick Clark recuperating at home

"American Bandstand" icon Dick Clark is recuperating at home after a minor stroke put him in the hospital for more than seven weeks.

Clark, 75, returned to his Malibu home Wednesday and was grateful for the many cards and letters he received during his hospital stay, publicist Paul Shefrin said.

"He was very touched by the outpouring of support, not only from the celebrity world but from the people on the streets of New York," Shefrin said.

For the first time in 32 years, Clark was unable to host his "New Year's Rockin' Eve" show from Times Square. Daytime talk show host Regis Philbin stood in for Clark watched from his hospital bed.

During the broadcast, fans on the street held up "Get Well Dick" signs.

Photos and stories from The Associated Press



Laurence Fishburne, left, and Ethan Hawke appear in the action flick "Assault on Precinct 13," which recently opened in the States.



Osbourne



Clark

GNC**GNC Brand Supplements****Buy One
Get 2nd at****1 / 2 PRICE****Offer valid from 1 - 28 Feb'05**

Terms and Conditions Apply

**KOREA**

OSAN AIR BASE | 784-1097
KUNSAN AIR BASE | 782-3017
YONGSAN GARRISON | 724-3256
CAMP CASEY | 730-4184
CAMP WALKER | 764-5184

OKINAWA

KADENA AIR BASE | 633-0353
CAMP FOSTER | 646-2927
CAMP HANSEN | 623-5749
CAMP KINER | 637-3333

MAINLAND JAPAN

YOKOTA AIR BASE | 227-6614
MISAWA AIR BASE | 222-7333
MCAS IWAKUNI | 253-4980
CAMP ZAMA | 263-8118

GUAM

ANDERSEN AIR BASE | 671-653-1347
(commercial)



Karl rejoins NBA with new appreciation

BY JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

DENVER — George Karl had been involved with basketball since the seventh grade, so not having it in his life for nearly two years left him feeling empty.

Now that he's headed back to the NBA, Karl has a greater appreciation for what the game has meant to him.

Out of the NBA since the Bucks fired him in 2003, Karl was back in Milwaukee on Thursday to take over as coach of the underachieving Denver Nuggets. He's expected to be on the bench Friday night, making his debut with the Nuggets against his former team.

"The last 18 months was the first time I was not with a basketball team for 38 years," Karl said. "I now realize how fun and what a privilege it is to be with a basketball team."

The Nuggets hope his enthusiasm rubs off.

One of the favorites in the Western Conference at the start of the season, Denver hasn't lived up to the expectations that came with adding All-Star power forward Kenyon Martin to a team that had reached the playoffs for the first time in nine years.

Plagued by injuries and inconsistencies,



George Karl answers questions at a news conference Thursday in Milwaukee. Karl was hired as coach of the Denver Nuggets.

The Nuggets got off to a horrible start and haven't really recovered. Coach Jeff Bzdelik lost his job Dec. 28 and Denver has been only marginally better under interim coach Michael Cooper, entering Friday's game 17-25 and 12½ games out of first place in the Northwest Division.

Karl brings plenty of credibility, ranking

13th with 708 career wins and leading his teams to five division titles and 13 playoff appearances in 16 seasons. He has also had experience turning around underachieving teams.

Karl helped Seattle reach the playoffs in 1991-92 after a 20-30 start cost coach K.C. Jones his job, and led the Sonics to three 60-win seasons in five years, including a trip to the 1996 NBA Finals.

"He's clearly one of the best coaches in the NBA, has always been so and his record exhibits that," Nuggets General Manager Kiki Vandeweghe said. "We are very excited to have him."

Karl can be feisty and confrontational, but it might be just what the Nuggets need. With a lineup that includes Martin, Carmelo Anthony, Andre Miller and Marcus Camby, Denver certainly doesn't lack talent. What the Nuggets seem to need is motivation.

Things got better under Cooper, who will stay on as an assistant, but Denver still only won four of 14 games and had trouble closing out the close ones. Injuries have taken a toll, but there were too many times when players stood around on defense or failed to run hard on the break.

Karl isn't likely to stand for lackadaisical

effort. He's had clashes with players at just about every stop in his coaching career, particularly in Milwaukee, but always seems to get the best out of them. Besides, the time off has allowed him to take a look at his approach to coaching.

Karl already has set his sights on getting Anthony to shape up.

A star as a rookie last season, Anthony has some growing pains this year. He had a difficult summer that included a clash with coach Larry Brown at the Olympics, a fight at a New York nightclub, but was caught with marijuana in his backpack during the press conference (the charge was dropped after a friend said the pot was his).

Anthony has had plenty of troubles on the court as well, struggling with shooting woes and ankle injuries. If the Nuggets are going to have success, Karl knows it will start with Anthony.

"I'm going to be demanding of certain things that he might not be happy with, but I also respect that he's a great talent," Karl said. "He being successful will only make him a job successful. I'm going to communicate with him, coach him, mentor him, try to teach him professionalism. I see a great player that has plateaued."

Associated Press Writer Ryan Nakashima in Milwaukee contributed to this story.

Lynce scores 24 as Red Devils pass toughest test at Eagles' Nest

Stars and Stripes

A week spent taking exams, with little time for practice, was not the way coach Nelan Brewster wanted to prepare his Nile C. Kinnick Red Devils to play in a venue where they'd lost three times last season.

But Kinnick's boys passed their first on-court test — facing Robert D. Edgren in the Eagles' Nest at Missava Air Base, Japan — with flying colors.

Senior Leonard Lynce had 24 points, 10 rebounds, seven steals and five assists and the Red Devils outscored the Eagles 31-10 in the second quarter Friday en route to an 81-40 victory in a battle of this season's Japan Basketball League leaders and last year's champions.

"Missava's a tough team at home," Brewster said.

"We prepared for this game all week, with what little practice we had. Though we left Yokosuka [Naval Base] at 4:30 this morning, we came out ready to play tonight."

The effort came against an Eagles team that went 15-3 in the JBL and 25-7 overall last season, including 72-63 and 76-64 victories over Kinnick last Jan. 23 and 24. The Red Devils also lost 78-69 to Hirotsuki, a Japanese team.

"That still stings for me," Brewster said.

That the Red Devils (16-1 overall and 14-0 against high schools) averted a repeat of that disaster, Brewster credited to staunch defense and the play of Lynce, whom Brewster said played some of his "best ball this year."

Prep roundup

"Outstanding defense," he said. "Our defense was suffocating. They [Eagles] couldn't get anything going."

Even without the three losses last year, Brewster said he spent the week impressing on his charges the Eagles' Nest's reputation for being a "10-point home advantage," as opposing coaches have said over the years, with Edgren's boisterous home crowd being like a sixth man on the court.

"That's what I told my guys before the game," Brewster said. "They responded. They played really good ball."

Junior Travis Ekmek completed Lynce with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Senior Paul Ergus, who played for Edgren last year before transferring to Yokosuka, chipped in with 15 points and seven rebounds before fouling out.

Falcons girls struggle with Warriors

Another league leader, Seoul American's girls, struggled. The Falcons had Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference rival Taegu American down by 10 points for most of Friday's contest at Falcon Gym before hanging on in the closing minutes to edge the Warriors 44-40.

It should not have been that close, Falcons coach Charlotte Hicks said, and would not have been if not for turnovers and a clutch three-pointer by Taegu's

Brandi Wagner that cut a seven-point gap to four in the final minute.

"If there was one thing that turned the game, it was lack of control of the boards," said Hicks, whose Falcons improved to 13-5 overall and 12-0 in league despite grabbing just 20 rebounds.

"That's nothing," said Hicks, admitting to worry about a game the next morning against Osan American, which beat Taegu 56-49 last Saturday.

"The kids just didn't block out. They [Warriors] were in the right place for rebounds. Mental mistakes. If the game had gone longer, it could have gone the other way."

Senior Janel Daniels paced the Falcons with 23 points and 10 rebounds. The Warriors (10-10) lost their third straight after opening 10-1 in KAIAAC.

Carroll, Panthers get boost from 'Kiddy Korps'

Still senior Brianna Carroll while stands out as a go-to scorer, American's girls, struggled. The Falcons had Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference rival Taegu American down by 10 points for most of Friday's contest at Falcon Gym before hanging on in the closing minutes to edge the Warriors 44-40.

Pusan (8-5) has won four of its last five games, with the help of "Kiddy Korps" freshmen Shabraya Hayes and Kristine Meany, who have averaged 12.5 and 17 rebounds per game in that span.

In their latest victory, 40-7 Friday, in an hour over Korea International, Carroll shot 5-for-9 from three-point land, while Hayes added 15 points and nine rebounds and Meany grabbed 14 rebounds.

James likely to miss game with ankle injury

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — President Bush wasn't the only notable figure at the Cleveland Clinic on Thursday. LeBron James needed another hip surgery.

James underwent further medical tests on his sprained left ankle, which is not as badly hurt as it looked when the Cavaliers star crumpled to the floor in the fourth quarter Wednesday night.

James traveled with his teammates to New York but was not expected to play Friday night against the Knicks.

"From the looks of things, I doubt very seriously if he'll play tomorrow," coach Paul Silas said. "We were hoping and praying that it wasn't anything serious."

About the same time Bush was pitching his health agenda during a forum at the hospital, James had a thorough examination which did not reveal any more damage to his ankle.

He'll be re-evaluated by trainer Max Benton on Friday and is listed as a game-time decision.

Attorneys: Bryant accused settled with tabloids

DENVER — The woman accusing Kobe Bryant of rape reached a money settlement with the owners of The Globe and other tabloids that printed her picture and stories about her hotel encounter with the NBA star, Bryant's attorneys said Thursday.

The tabloid publisher American Media Inc. agreed to pay the woman an undisclosed sum, according to court documents filed by the defense in the woman's civil lawsuit against Bryant.

Bryant's lawyers, who did not disclose how they found out about the alleged settlement, said the woman's attorneys should have notified them.

L. Lin Wong, an lawyer repre-

senting the woman, did not immediately return phone messages Thursday.

The suit seeks unspecified damages from Bryant, alleging emotional injuries the woman suffered since their encounter at a hotel near Vail in June 2003. The Los Angeles Lakers star said the sex was consensual.

Information about the alleged settlement with American Media came in a court filing supporting Bryant's claim that media organizations and other outside sources were at least partly responsible for the woman's alleged injuries.

Blazers suspend if Miles two games for foul conduct

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland Trail Blazers forward Darius Miles was suspended by the team for two games after a verbal clash with coach Maurice Cheeks during a film session.

The Blazers suspended Miles for conduct detrimental to the team and insubordination. Miles, who signed a six-year, \$48 million contract with the Blazers in the offseason, will sit out Friday's home game against the Los Angeles Clippers and Tuesday's game in Los Angeles against the Lakers.

"We expect a certain behavior from everyone in our organization, and what happened yesterday is not acceptable behavior," Blazers president Steve Patterson said in a statement.

The Trail Blazers would not comment on the nature of the confrontation, except to say there was one Thursday.

"He blew up in the film session," said Cheeks, who characterized Miles' comments as inappropriate.

In do-or-die game, Georgia Tech does it

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Although it's still January, Georgia Tech needed this game in the worst way.

The Yellow Jackets had lost three in a row, squandered a 17-point lead over Wake Forest and were on the verge of a crushing defeat when Jarrett Jack stepped to the free-throw line with 4.4 seconds left in overtime.

"I told myself that I had to come through for my team," Jack said. "The mark of a great team is being able to put the past behind you."

After gathering himself with a stroll toward the opposite foul line, Jack calmly made both free throws to give No. 22 Georgia Tech a 102-101 victory over the fifth-ranked Demon Deacons on Thursday night.

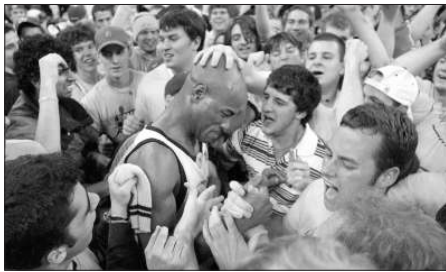
Wake Forest got the last shot, but Chris Paul missed at the buzzer. He also had a chance to win it at the end of regulation, but that attempt fell off the rim, too.

"Coach said, 'Get the ball and try to get to the basket,'" Paul said. "I just missed it."

Georgia Tech (12-5, 3-3) built a 34-17 lead in the first half, but Wake Forest (16-3, 4-2) rallied behind Eric Williams, who scored 27 points and was nearly unstoppable on the inside.

Williams didn't get much help from Paul. The leading vote-getter on the AP's preseason All-America team managed only eight points, missing nine of 11 shots.

Will Bynum scored a career-high 30 points for Georgia Tech and spent time guarding Paul.



Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack is mobbed by fans after the Yellow Jackets beat No. 5 Wake Forest 102-101 in overtime Thursday night. Jack's two free throws decided the outcome.

"We take pride in stopping great players," Bynum said. "He's a great player, so we try to play him as physically as possible. Don't let him get into rhythm. Be there in his face every time."

Georgia Tech's student body stormed the court after the final miss, setting off a raucous celebration that lasted several minutes. Weary players from both teams struggled just to make it to their locker rooms.

The Yellow Jackets started the season in the top five, but three straight ACC losses sent them tumbling in the rankings. They

had to bounce back from a stunning upset at home by Virginia Tech last Saturday.

"This may have been make or break for our season," Bynum said. "If we had lost this game, it could have destroyed our confidence."

It was a game that didn't want to end, stretching on for nearly three hours and leaving both teams huffing and puffing. Georgia Tech's Isma'il Muhammad hobbled off the court with severe leg cramps, but the pain subsided after he was injected with fluids.

He finished the game with both arms wrapped in gauze.

After Jack put the Yellow Jackets ahead, Wake Forest took off up the court. Paul missed a desperation shot as the horn sounded, but the refs signaled that the Demon Deacons had called a timeout.

The clock was reset to 2.8 seconds and Wake Forest inbounded the ball near mid-court. Jack fell down trying to keep up with Paul, but it didn't matter when the final shot fell harmlessly off the rim.

No. 11 Arizona 91, No. 10 Washington 82: The Wildcats went 38-for-40 from the free-throw line and took over first place in the Pac-10.

Salim Stoudamire had 25 points for Arizona (17-3, 7-1), which made 31 straight from the line at one stretch. Stoudamire's three-point play on a leaning baseline bank shot with 44 seconds left gave the Wildcats an 88-82 lead.

Brandon Roy had 15 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the visiting Huskies (16-3, 6-2), who beat Arizona three times last season.

No. 15 Michigan St. 64, Michigan 53: Maurice Ager scored 18 points and the Spartans (13-3, 5-1 Big Ten) won for the 11th time in 12 games.

Dion Harris and Courtney Sims each had 12 points for the visiting Wolverines (12-8, 3-3), who lost to their in-state rival for the 11th time in 12 games.

No. 21 Cincinnati 74, South Florida 48: Eric Hicks had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the visiting Bearcats (16-3, 5-1 Conference USA), who beat South Florida for the 14th straight time.

Brian Swift had 27 for South Florida (8-9, 1-5), which has lost five straight.

Attention Active Duty Military!

Earn Your Bachelor's Degree or MBA in Business Administration ONLINE at NO TUITION COST TO YOU!

Earn your Bachelor's Degree or MBA in Business Administration at NO TUITION COST TO YOU for up to 28 credits per year!

Earn your credits around TDY's and Deployments

Special MBA in Military Management for Graduates of ACSC, CGSC, CNCS, or MCCSC.

- Programs that meet your schedule needs
- All courses ONLINE!
- BSBA and MBA
- DANTES Affiliated
- Special rates for military spouses

NO TUITION COST TO YOU!



TOUROS UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL
The University of Choice for the U.S. Military
www.tourou.edu

5665 Plaza Dr., Third Floor, Cypress, CA 90630
800-579-3161 • 714-816-0366 • 714-816-0367 Fax

College of Business Administration e-mail: infoeba@tourou.edu
For inquiries log on to: <http://inquiry.tourou.edu>



Now Accepting
Applications
for Spring
Session.

Get **MORE** from Visa Platinum Cash Rewards



Another Superior Rate

1.25%
Cash Rewards
Paid Each Month*

**Visa Platinum
Cash Rewards**



- ▶ **No Annual Fee**
- ▶ **No Tiers**
- ▶ **No limit to what you can
earn back on purchases**
- ▶ **4.9% APR balance transfer
with no balance transfer fee**

Apply today.

ARMY

AIR FORCE

COAST GUARD

HOMELAND SECURITY

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS (VFW)

FAMILY MEMBERS OF ABOVE

MANY OTHERS

www.PenFed.org

1-800-247-5626

or call **510-376-7328** from
any on-base, Class "X" DSN line



Pentagon Federal Credit Union
Superior Rates. Proven Service.®

NCUA Please mention Code 605. Rates and offers are current as of January 1, 2005 and are subject to change. Balance transfers will have an Annual Percentage Rate of 4.9%, monthly periodic rate of 4.08%, and shall remain in effect on the transferred balance until it is paid in full. Payments will be applied to the current balance in the order determined by Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PFCU) in its sole discretion. The regular rate applicable to purchases or cash advances (including balance transfers) and the rate for your guaranteed advance remains unchanged. Balance transfers are treated as cash advances, therefore there is no grace period and finance charges accrue from the date the transfer is posted to your account. Balance transfers of other PFCU loans are not eligible for this promotion. If you are in default or any time the 4.9% rate will revert to the regular rate applicable to your account. This promotion is subject to change or termination at any time and without prior notice. Current rate for purchases for Visa Platinum Cash Rewards is 12.9% apr. *Cash rewards apply to net purchases (purchases minus returns or credits). Cash rewards do not apply to balance transfers, cash advances, credit card checks, or returned purchases. Pentagon Federal reserves the right to alter, change, or terminate these programs at any time.

Hewitt holds off Roddick in semifinals

Australian to face Safin for men's singles title; Kuznetsova-Molik team takes women's doubles final

BY PAUL ALEXANDER
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Lleyton Hewitt was at his aggressive, fast-pumping best Friday, withstanding 31 aces by Andy Roddick in a 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-1 victory to reach the Australian Open final.

Hewitt, who has angered three opponents with his shouts to pump himself up, fired up the crowd. But one man was too vocal for Roddick's tastes — he complained about a fan shouting during his service motion on the seventh game of the third set.

Hewitt will face fourth-seeded Marat Safin on Sunday evening in a matchup of former top-ranked players, the first men's Grand Slam final scheduled for the night. Safin ended top-ranked Roger Federer's 26-match winning streak in the other semifinal. Hewitt is trying to become the first Australian man to win his major since Mark Edmondson in 1976. Pat Cash lost the 1987 and 1988 finals.

Hewitt dropped to his knees once his victory was secured, kissing the court and hitting a ball high into the air as the crowd roared.

"Always said I'd do anything to have chance to play in the first night final here in history, and I've got my chance," Hewitt said. "It's awesome. It's a little bit hard to believe at the moment. I love this place."

The women's final pits top-ranked Lindsay Davenport

against seventh-seeded Serena Williams on Saturday.

In the women's doubles final, U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova and Australia's Alicia Molik defeated Davenport and Corina Morariu 6-3, 6-4. Davenport and Morariu lost to Serena Williams and Venus Williams in the 2001 doubles final in Australia.

In between, Morariu underwent chemotherapy for leukemia and has had two shoulder operations.

Hewitt has won major titles at Wimbledon in 2002 and the U.S. Open in 2001. He has won the U.S. Open and has lost two previous Australian finals, including last year against Federer.

"Marat's beaten the best player going around," Hewitt said.

"He's playing extremely well. I'm going to have to raise my level yet again and see what happens."

Roddick said the tiebreakers were his chance.

"I'm usually pretty money in those," Roddick said. "Either one of those would have given me a distinct advantage. I'm mad. I felt I was in there with a shot. He put himself in position to win big points. I donated a little more than I would have wanted."

Roddick came out hot, jumping ahead 2-0. The second-seeded American overtook his fourth break-point opportunity when Hewitt hit a forehand that was called good but TV replays indicated was just long.

As he has done so often, Roddick relied on his blistering serve



Andy Roddick complains to the umpire about a spectator yelling during his serve during loss to Lleyton Hewitt in the men's singles semifinal in the Australian Open on Friday night. Hewitt won the match, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-1 and will play Marat Safin of Russia in the final.

to get out of early trouble. He had six aces as he served at 5-3, using them to fend off four of Hewitt's five break points in the game. He then finished off the set with another two.

Roddick made it seven aces in a row with four in the next game.

But Hewitt had only three unforced errors in the second set, which marked the first appearance of his trademark "Come on!" while pointing his fingers at his forehead in the 16th game — much later than usual.

The third-seeded Aussie still needed a tiebreaker. Roddick had won all three that they had played despite the Australian's 4-1 record in head-to-head meetings — to even the match. Hewitt had the only ace to pull ahead 6-3, and Roddick netted a backhand on the next point.

After cracking 23 aces in the first two sets, Roddick had only eight in the last two.

"It's never routine, especially playing a guy like Andy," Hewitt said. "He's got so much firepower, and I had to weather the storm."

Roddick went ahead in the third set when Hewitt double-faulted at break point. But serving at 4-2, 30-30, Roddick — clearly trying to put a little extra on his second serve — double-faulted twice to return the favor. He had only six double-faults in the previous five matches, but had nine against Hewitt.

At the changeover, Roddick complained to chair umpire Andreas Egl about a fan calling out during his service motion. When Egl indicated he couldn't control everyone in the crowd, Roddick responded: "You're telling me I can have someone shout during every one of my serves and you can't do anything about it?"

Australian Open

Friday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: \$14.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surfing: Nov-Indoor
Singles

Semifinals
Lleyton Hewitt (3), Australia, def. Andy Roddick (2), United States, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Doubles
Women
Championship
Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, and Alicia Molik, Australia, def. Lindsay Davenport and Corina Morariu (15), United States, 6-3, 6-4.

Mixed
Quarterfinals
Max Mirnyi, Belarus, and Martina Navratilova (7), United States, def. Wayne Black and Cara Black (7), Zimbabwe, 7-5, 6-4.

Semifinals
Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur, Australia, def. Andy Ram, Israel, and Conchita Martinez, Spain, 7-5, 6-3.

He complained again in the next game after someone shouted as he served at 40-40 after the 27th ace.

"It just took one jackass to shout out," Roddick said later, adding the crowd overall was "very respectful."

Another tiebreaker, and Hewitt peaked at the right time again.

From 4-4, he ran off the last three points, the last a backhand cross-court pass. Hewitt leaned low and pumped his fist three times with another "Come on!"

Roddick took a break to change his clothes and said a tournament official hassled him for taking too long.

"I asked him if he could tie one shoe for me and I could tie the other for him," Roddick said. "I wasn't too fond of it."

Roddick came out flat for the fourth set but denied the encounter with the official hurt his play. Hewitt, who has been nursing sore thighs, had spent 14½ hours on court — twice as long as Roddick — over his previous five matches, including a four-hour, five-setter in the quarterfinals.

Mickelson trails Ogilvie in quest for Hope Classic repeat

The Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Phil Mickelson expects Joe Ogilvie to win a tournament any day now. He just hopes it's not this Sunday.

Mickelson, going for his second consecutive Bob Hope Chrysler Classic victory and third in four years, is three shots behind Ogilvie heading into the third round of the five-day tournament.

Ogilvie shot a 9-under 63 on Thursday to go to 17-under 127 through two rounds. Mickelson had a 64 and was tied for second with Fredrik Jacobson of Sweden, who had a 62.

Mickelson thinks Ogilvie is due.

"I thought he was going to win the Open last year, the way he played," Mickelson said. "He lost by a shot to a very hot Vijay Singh, but I think he's ready to win now."

"It's going to take all I can do to fight him out."

Ogilvie, whose tie for second at New Orleans last year was his best finish on the tour, was not

Golf roundup

conceding that he was the second-round leader of the Hope.

Players rotate among four courses the first four days of the 90-hole event, with some of the layouts more difficult.

"Mickelson shot a 64 today at La Quinta," said Ogilvie, who had his 63 at Bermuda Dunes. "I'd say technically he's probably leading. Score-wise, I am, but technically I'd say he's leading."

"That's Duke math," the former economics major said, grinning.

Mickelson summed it up differently.

"I feel like I'm three back," he said.

Fred Couples and Billy Mayfair were in a group of five at 13 under. Couples had a 66 and Mayfair a 64.

Ogilvie began the tournament with a 64 and was at 127 for two rounds. His 17 under is the

third-most shots below par through 36 holes in PGA Tour history.

Tom Lehman was 19 under after two rounds at Las Vegas in 2001, after Joe Durant was 18 under through 36 holes on his way to winning the Hope earlier that year. Lehman's 125 tied Tiger Woods and Mark Calcavecchia for low 36-hole score, with Woods coming on a par-70 course and Calcavecchia on a par-71 layout.

Ogilvie, 30, wasn't surprised by the low total through two rounds of the Hope this time, although he chuckled and said, "I'm just surprised that I did it."

"You look at the history of golf — I don't think I'm going to be in any encyclopedias of golf," he said.

Ogilvie finished his round with a gamble that paid off on No. 18, lofting a 5-wood over palm trees to within 5 feet of the pin and then rolling in the eagle putt.

He's coming off his most successful year on the tour, with the \$1.4 million he earned in 2004

more than his previous four years combined.

Dougherty surges into lead in Caltex Masters

SINGAPORE — England's Nick Dougherty shot 5-under 67 Friday, including a long eagle, to take a one-stroke lead in Singapore's Caltex Masters.

Dougherty was at 5-under 135 through two rounds.

Defending champion Collin Montgomerie was second at 136 following a second-round 71. Denmark's Thomas Bjorn, who shot 66, was joined in third place by China's Liang Wenchong (68), Jamie Donaldson of Wales (68) and Danny Grant of Malaysia (70).

Teeing off from the back nine, Dougherty added six birdies to his eagle against one bogey.

Dougherty hit a monster 3-wood to eagle the 18th with a 288-yard third shot that found the cup.

"It was the best feeling I've ever had. This is the first time I think Vijay (Singh) or Tiger (Woods) would be pretty pleased with that one."



Defending tournament champion Phil Mickelson used his putter just 25 times in a second-round 64 on Thursday at La Quinta Country Club.

Boston police planning tight security on Super Sunday

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Police promised to be out in force on Super Bowl Sunday, hoping to discourage the mob behavior that has been an unfortunate byproduct of local sports teams' recent success and insults in the deaths of two young people.

Police officials declined Thursday to detail their Super Bowl security strategy because all the details have yet to be worked out, but a high-ranking officer told The Boston Globe he believes the plan for Feb. 6 will be similar to that during the World Series between the Red Sox and the St. Louis Cardinals.

When the Red Sox clinched the world championship, more than 700 officers were in the streets around Fenway Park, using canisters of pepper spray and water hoses to control the crowds. Only a few minor injuries were reported.

Police Commissioner Kathleen M. O'Toole has issued a directive forbidding most officers from taking Super Bowl Sunday off.

Last year, only 43 officers were assigned to control celebrating crowds when the New England Patriots beat the Carolina Panthers for the NFL championship.

During the rioting, James Grabowski, a 21-year-old college student, died after he was run down by an alleged drunken driver near Northeastern University.

An internal report later said the police department's lack of preparation was "inexcusable."

During rioting that followed the Red Sox's American League pennant victory in October, Victoria Stedgroe, a 21-year-old Emerson College student, died after she was struck in the eye by a police pepper pellet gun.

The police official told the Globe he believes those weapons will not be deployed for the Super Bowl.

Besides police preparations for Super Bowl Sunday:

■ O'Toole and Mayor Thomas M. Menino have scheduled meetings Monday with student leaders from area colleges and universities to discuss how students can help create a safe environment.

■ Northeastern University's entire police force, which numbers about 50, has been ordered to work on Super Bowl Sunday.

Northeastern officials also will meet daily next week to plan crowd-control measures.

■ On game day, Northeastern and Boston University will host alcohol-free game-night parties.

Northeastern spokesman Fred McGrail said that in addition to arrests by police, the university will expel or suspend students who misbehave.

Bill Durkin, president of the Student Government Association at Northeastern, said he is convinced that this year's events will prevent students from pouring into the streets.

"The huge prizes (a plasma screen television, other electronic products) and the scale of the event will draw people," Durkin said. "It's more than just putting the game on the big screen."

Eagles, Burgess feeling productive again

Philadelphia DE overcomes injuries, compliments Kearse on line

By DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Forget Terrell Owens, Jevon Kearse and Brian Westbrook. Maybe the Philadelphia Eagles really needed to snap their three-year NFL championship game losing streak was Derrick Burgess.

After all, it was Burgess who harassed Atlanta's Michael Vick mercilessly and helped limit the NFL's top-ranked rushing offense to 99 yards. It was Burgess who had two sacks, six tackles and shut down running lanes that made Vick miserable.

Now he wants a similar performance against Tom Brady and the Patriots in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6.

"It feels good for the moment, but that was last week," Burgess said Thursday. "It's done now. Now, I've got to get out here this week and do it all over again."

Burgess can hardly be blamed for wanting the season to last as long as it possibly can. The four-year pro missed all but one game the past two years because of injuries. But his two-sack performance against the Falcons put everyone on notice that he's all the way back.

"To go through so much and be where I am right now with my teammates, it's just a beautiful thing," Burgess said.

Burgess missed the last 15 games of the 2002 season with a broken foot. Then last year, only his right leg kept him open. Burgess tore his Achilles' tendon and was out for the entire season.

One season-ending injury made him determined to return stronger than ever. The next day, he was wondering why the injuries kept happening. Last summer it was hard for Burgess not to dwell on the nearly two full sea-



Philadelphia Eagles DE Derrick Burgess (56) harassed Atlanta Falcons QB Michael Vick (7) all day in the NFC championship game.

sons he missed and wondered whether it could happen again.

"I don't want to say I had doubts, but I'll say concerns," he said. "But once you step on the field, it's all out the window. At minicamp, it was over. Whatever was going to happen was going to happen."

Burgess wasn't totally immune this season, either. He was off to a solid start with 2½ sacks and started 11 of 12 games until he sprained his sternum against Green Bay on Dec.

5, causing him to miss the last four games of the regular season.

Still, defensive coordinator Jim Johnson thought Burgess could play better in the post-season.

"It's amazing that he's made it through this whole year," Johnson said. "He hasn't been a pleasant surprise because we always knew he was a good football player."

Burgess returned to start Philadelphia's first playoff game against Minnesota and did nothing in that one. No sacks, no tackles, no impact.

Maybe that's why Vick had no idea who that No. 56 was chasing him all over the field. All Vick knew was that Kearse was on one end and "another good defensive lineman" on the other end created problems.

Burgess benefited from a tip that Eagles defensive line coach Tommy Brasher gave him. Brasher suggested that Kearse and Burgess swap sides. That put Burgess back on his more natural left side and the speedier Kearse on the right, allowing him to better fill the spot where the left-handed Vick was more likely to run.

When Vick tried to run from Kearse, he ran right into Burgess.

Brady presents a different problem than the more mobile Vick and Minnesota's Daunte Culpepper. Brady stays in the pocket longer and won't beat a team with his feet like Vick.

"One is an athlete and one's a quarterback," Burgess said.

Johnson said he could flip-flop the duo again or just keep Burgess on the right side. Either way is fine with Burgess.

"As long as we can go down there and get a 'W,' I'll do whatever it takes," Burgess said.

Ex-Syracuse coach Pasqualoni joins Cowboys

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Former Syracuse head coach Paul Pasqualoni became the first head coach to Bill Parcells' coaching staff Thursday.

Pasqualoni, 55, has yet to be assigned a specific role. The only current vacancy on Parcells' staff is at tight end, following last week's release of offensive line coach George Warhop and kicking coach Steve Hoffman.

The team's former tight ends coach, Tony Speno, was moved to replace Warhop.

Pasqualoni was fired after a 6-5 campaign last season. He is 107-59-1 in 14 seasons at Syracuse and led the Orange to nine bowl games.

Niners hire Saints' McCarthy as offensive coordinator

SAN FRANCISCO — Mike McCarthy will return the West Coast coach to the San Francisco 49ers after joining the club as coach Mike Nolan's offensive coordinator on Thursday.

The 49ers also hired George Warhop as their offensive line coach, adding two more veteran NFL assistants to Nolan's new staff.

McCarthy spent the past five seasons with the New Orleans Saints, whose offense led the NFL in scoring in 2002. McCarthy also coached the quarterbacks at Green Bay and Kansas City — working with Brett Favre and Joe



Montana — before joining the Saints.

Warhop spent the previous two seasons coaching the Dallas Cowboys' offensive line following five years with the Arizona Cardinals.

Attorney: Ravens CB unfairly targeted by gambling probe

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Baltimore Ravens cornerback Corey Fuller was unfairly targeted by a gambling probe because of his celebrity, his attorney told a jury Thursday.

The 10-year NFL veteran was arrested in April when police broke up a high-stakes card game at his Tallahassee home. Fuller was charged with maintaining a gambling house, use of a firearm in commission of a felony and misdemeanor gambling.

"The evidence is going to show the reason we're here is not what Mr. Fuller did, but who Mr. Fuller is," defense attorney Tim Jansen said in his opening statement. "Their investigation was detailed to target Mr. Fuller."

Bills CB Clements added to Pro Bowl roster

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills cornerback Nate Clements was added to the AFC Pro

Bowl team Friday to replace the injured Chris McAlister.

Clements was added after it was determined McAlister of Baltimore and first alternate Patrick Surtain of Miami would be unable to play because of injuries.

Titans hire Sherman as wide receivers coach

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans hired Ray Sherman as wide receivers coach Friday.

Sherman, who spent the past five seasons with the Green Bay Packers, replaces Steve Walters, who left to join the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Titans coach Jeff Fisher said the team is finalizing a deal to retain defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE

Visit www.stripes.com and click on Home Delivery to get started

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS & STRIPES
www.stripes.com

USS Kitty Hawk group may be heading home

U.S., Iraqis gather plan government

Maglio finalizes deal; Larkin heads toward retiring

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carlos Delgado is taking his anti-war protest to Florida.

During his Delgado finalized his \$52 million, four-year deal with the Marlins on Thursday, Maglio Ordonez made a counteroffer to the Detroit Tigers and Barry Larkin said he is leaning toward retirement.

Delgado, who accepted Florida's contract on Tuesday, said during his introductory news conference that he will continue not to stand during the playing of "God Bless America."

He refused to stand when "God Bless America" was played last season. Instead, he would stay on the Toronto Blue Jays bench or go into the dugout tunnel.

"I wouldn't call it politics, because I hate politics," Delgado said. "The reason why I didn't stand for 'God Bless America' was because I didn't like the way they lied 'God Bless America' and 9-11 to the war in Iraq in baseball."

Marlins officials, who gave Del-

Baseball roundup

gado the richest per-season contract in the team's 12-year history, made no objection to his war protest.

"The Marlins don't support it, and we don't not support it," team president David Samson said. "He's an adult. The club's position is that what he does is up to him."

Ordonez, the last remaining premier free agent, told agent Scott Boras to make the counterproposal to Detroit. The outfielder met Monday with Tigers owner Mike Ilitch, team president Dave Dombrowski and manager Alan Trammell.

"Mike Ilitch indicated he was interested in making a move that would dramatically affect the franchise," Boras said.

Ordonez made \$14 million last year with the Chicago White Sox and had been seeking a free agent before he became a free agent.

"Mike did a really good job in



Larkin

his meeting of expressing where the Tigers can be," Boras said. "I thought the Tigers have a very good chance of winning the AL Central. Maglio is very familiar with the AL Central and with Detroit."

Ordonez hit 292 last year with nine homers and 37 RBIs, missing most of the season with a knee injury that required two operations.

"They talked to the doctors and were very comfortable Maglio is healthy," Boras said.

Larkin said he has turned down offers to start for several other teams because he can't envision himself playing anywhere but Cincinnati.

"I thought eventually I'd be able to say, 'yeah, I can do this,' the 40-year-old shortstop said. "But I'm big on loyalty. I couldn't

come to grips with making a 100 percent commitment" to another team.

Several teams are still interested in the former All-Star as a reserve, giving him a chance to help develop younger players.

Larkin sounds as if he's going to retire, and says he's "pretty close" to a final decision.

"I simply haven't made an announcement that I'm not going to play or retire because it's not that pressing of an issue," he said. "If it comes to the point that spring training starts and I'm not playing, then it will be obvious. I want no big fanfare, no major announcement."

Also Thursday, pitcher Hideo Nomo agreed to a minor league contract with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays that would pay him \$800,000 if he is added to the big league roster, and Japanese infielder Naomasa Igarashi agreed to his \$495 million, two-year deal with the White Sox.

Infielder George Arias, a former star in the Japanese league, agreed to a minor league contract with the Washington Nationals; reliever Rick White

agreed to a minor league contract with Pittsburgh (\$475,000 if added to the roster) and reliever Jay Powell reached a preliminary agreement on a minor league deal with the Atlanta Braves.

The New York Yankees reached preliminary agreements on minor league contracts with utilityman Damian Rios (\$600,000) and outfielder Doug Glavine (\$550,000).

Houston outfielder Lance Berkman was among five players in salary arbitration who settled, agreeing to a \$10.5 million, one-year contract. Houston will continue to work for a multiyear deal with the All-Star, who is expected to miss the start of the season after having his knee playing flag football.

Arizona right-hander Mike Kopeck got a \$2 million, two-year deal, Milwaukee outfielder Brady Clark a \$1.5 million, one-year contract and Atlanta right-hander Kevin Grysinski accepted a \$877,500, one-year contract. Anaheim backup catcher Josh Pava settled at \$450,000, leaving 26 players still scheduled for hearings next month.

Revolution scoring leader Moore retires

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Joe-Max Moore announced his retirement from soccer Thursday, ending a career in which he played in three World Cups and became the New England Revolution's career scoring leader.

Moore, 33, hurt his right knee in 2003 and aggravated the injury last April in a game against the MetroStars. He had reconstructive ligament surgery last Friday.

"After numerous attempts to strengthen and stabilize my knee through rehab, it became clear that I had no alternative but to have reconstructive surgery," he said in a statement.

"Considering my age and the recovery time necessary, I have decided to end my playing career." Moore was a two-time All-America at UCLA. He scored 24 goals in international competition for the U.S. national team, ranking him third in that category. He played in the 1994, 1998 and 2002 World Cup finals. He also played for the U.S. in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

His penalty kick against Jamaica on Oct. 7, 2001, at Foxboro Stadium won the game and clinched a berth for the U.S. in the 2002 World Cup.

He joined the Revolution midway through Major League Soccer's inaugural season in 1996 and spent parts of six seasons with New England. His 117 points (41 goals, 35 assists) tops the team's career list.

From 1999-2001, he played for Everton of the English Premier League. Moore also played professionally in Germany and Ecuador.

Ex-Baylor player Dotson deemed ready for murder trial

WACO, Texas — A former Baylor basketball player accused of

Sports briefs

killing a teammate has regained his competence to stand trial and is ready to be returned from a state hospital, a psychologist says.

Carlton Dotson, 22, had been taken to North Texas State Hospital in Vernon after a defense psychologist, state psychiatrist and court-appointed independent psychiatrist all found that Dotson was incompetent to stand trial in the death of Patrick Denney.

Denney's body was found in a field near Baylor's Waco campus in July 2003. He had been missing for about six weeks.

In a report to District Judge George Allen, hospital psychologist Thomas Gray said Dotson is ready to be returned to the McLennan County Jail. Gray said Dotson must continue to receive psychiatric care, take prescribed anti-psychotic medication and not use alcohol and illegal drugs, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported in its Friday editions.

Quit-smoking product enters NASCAR

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — One year after kicking its decades-long cigarette sponsorship habit, NASCAR apparently needs a little help staying smoke-free.

Nicorette gum became the first smoking cessation product to enter NASCAR when GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare signed a sponsorship deal Thursday with Chip Ganassi Racing.

Three of its quit-smoking products — the gum, the Nicoderm QD patch and Commit lozenges — were advertised on the rear deck of Casey Mears' car during the season. Nicorette will also be the primary sponsor on the No. 41 Dodge for one race in a deal es-

timated to cost the company \$3 million annually.

The anti-smoking products enter the sport one year after R.J. Reynolds' Winston brand ended a 33-year run as title sponsor of NASCAR's top race series. With wireless company Nextel replacing Winston, NASCAR has made an effort to distance itself from its tobacco-chewing, cigarette-smoking image.

Judge rules NCAA tapes will be allowed at Neuheisel trial

KENT, Wash. — A judge rejected an effort Thursday by Rick Neuheisel's lawyers to disallow tape recordings made by NCAA investigators as evidence in the coach's lawsuit against the University of Washington and the NCAA.

The tapes came from Neuheisel's interviews with NCAA investigators on June 4, 2003, in Seattle. Early on the tapes, Neuheisel is heard denying that he gambled on NCAA basketball games.

Later, after consulting with a lawyer, Neuheisel admitted doing so. He was fired later that month as Washington's football coach, with university officials saying he wasn't fully honest when first questioned.

At a motions hearing, plaintiff's lawyer Greg Hollon argued that a key part of the interview was missing.

"The NCAA lost or failed to preserve the critical first portion of the interview, which sheds light on later portions," Hollon told King County Superior Court Judge Michael Spearman. "This could cause confusion. The jury might not understand some answers in the proper context."

Spearman determined there is enough other information on the tapes to admit them as evidence. Neuheisel's lead attorney, Bob Sulkin, said the ruling won't detract from his case.

"The jury's still going to understand exactly what went on, so it's not a big deal at all," Sulkin said. Spearman heard arguments on several other motions, filed by Sulkin and lawyers for the university and NCAA, to require evidence and testimony at trial next week. The judge will rule on those motions Friday.

Opening statements are scheduled for Monday.

Guard Randle likely to miss rest of Illinois' season

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Illinois guard Brian Randle said Thursday he likely will sit out the rest of the season after recovering from a broken left hand.

"I think it's the best thing for me the way things are going right now," said Randle, who broke his hand when he punched a wall in frustration during a pre-season practice. "Conditioning, how late it is in the year, I think right now recovery probably is the best decision."

If he does not play for the rest of the season for the top-ranked Ill. basketball phenom, the NCAA for a medical exemption to preserve his three remaining years of eligibility.

Palmer marries in Hawaii

KAHUKU, Hawaii — At 75, Arnold Palmer feels like a kid again after saying, "I do."

Palmer married fiancée Kathleen Gawthorn in an intimate beachside ceremony on Oahu's North Shore.

"I'm like a 25-year-old," he said Thursday.

The couple exchanged nuptials Wednesday evening in a beach cottage near the Arnold Palmer Course at the Turtle Bay Resort, where the four-time Masters champion will play at this weekend's PGA Championships Tour event.

Palmer was married once before. His wife of 45 years, Winnie, died in 1999.

Pirates owner decries big deals

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh's Kevin McClatchy lashed out at other baseball owners Friday for a return of free-agent spending that he fears may steer some clubs close to bankruptcy.

McClatchy, the Pirates' managing general partner, warned of a growing division between big-payroll and small-market clubs that could lead to contentious owners meetings and a much-harder stance during the next labor negotiations. The current labor deal expires in December 2006.

"I don't know what happens next, but they're doing some funny work, but they all decided they were back on the binge," McClatchy said. "When somebody goes out and pays an average pitcher \$7 million a year, then anybody who's an average pitcher says they need \$7 million a year. That's very difficult, and when you're giving pitchers \$18 million in arbitration, that also makes it difficult."

Roger Clemens agreed to an \$18 million contract, like a year-ago deal with Houston, a record one-year salary for a pitcher and nearly half the Pirates' projected 40 million payroll.

"You wonder how, since they were in a tough financial spot, some of the spending is going to work, how they're even going to be able to pay their bills," he said.

SPORTS



After two seasons of injuries, Eagles' Burgess seeing results, Page 46

Rockets lifting off



ORLANDO SENTINEL/AP

The Rockets were 12-14 despite picking up NBA scoring champ Tracy McGrady in the offseason. They entered Friday five games over .500.

McGrady and teammates show some muscle, living up to preseason hype

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — David Wesley was grateful to leave the NBA's worst team for one considered a playoff contender when he was traded from New Orleans to Houston.

But to his astonishment, Wesley discovered that the trade last month simply moved him from one sub-.500 team for another.

"The first night I got here, my first question was, 'How are you guys losing?'" Wesley recalled asking his new Rockets teammates. "Man, I was surprised."

Despite an offseason trade for reigning NBA scoring champ Tracy McGrady that paired him with All-Star center Yao Ming, Houston got off to a 12-14 start and hardly resembled a team thought to be a preseason title favorite.

Look at those reeling Rockets now.

Since Wesley joined the team Dec. 27, the Rockets have won 11 of 15 games and worked themselves back into the crowded Western

Conference postseason picture. Heading into Friday night's game against Sacramento, Houston has matched a season high with four straight wins and moved five games over .500 (24-19) for the first time this season.

"It's just come together for us," point guard Bob Sura said. "We're playing the way we expected to play."

Of course, the addition of Wesley, a 6-foot-1 guard averaging 12 points in his 12th NBA season, has been only part of the recent resurgence of the Rockets.

McGrady has comfortably settled into a role as the team's top scorer without hogging the ball. Yao has emerged from an early season slump. Sura has finally recovered from off-season back surgery to become the team's steady floor leader.

And the trades for Wesley and guard Jon Barry from Atlanta — players from two of the league's worst teams — in late December have given the Rockets a much-needed boost of intensity, toughness and veteran moxie.

SEE ROCKETS ON PAGE 40



AP

Since acquiring guard David Wesley from New Orleans on Dec. 27, the Rockets have won 11 of their last 15 games and improved to 24-19.



Hewitt ousts Roddick for spot in Australian final

Page 44



Georgia Tech stuns No. 5 Wake for much-needed win

Page 42



Delgado finalizes \$52M, four-year deal with Mets

Page 47

Stalemate continues in NHL labor negotiations Page 45

